



PAGODA



Service Above Self
August 2020

One Profits Most Who Serves Best
Special Edition: Youth Service

Youth are the future of Rotary!

By Naomy H. Peña - YSC Chair

A former Interactor, I now enjoy serving my local and global community as a Rotarian. I spent the last Rotary year observing and learning the social and educational parameters of our three factions to determine the best means of alignment. The Youth Service Committee (YSC) solely dedicates itself to the growth of our Interact and Rotaract partners. Whether academically, professionally, or personally, we aim to have foster globally conscious and service-minded individuals.



Naomy on Interact Day 2019

This article features our Interactors' reflections of the past Rotary and academic year.

Interact is about personal growth and service to the community. Interactors have the unique opportunity to join a worldwide initiative to address global issues. Interactors apply their academic knowledge, interests, skills, and talents towards helping and supporting others. Their capabilities are developed, and competencies sharpened as they explore strengths and

limitations and foster long term relationships with peers through collaboration.

During the 2019-2020 year, the YSC began its Interact club mentorship program, and invited the Rotaract Club of Shanghai (RACS) VP to join the committee. This year, we have devised a framework to further see our alignment flourish. Our ambitious yet necessary undertaking involves:

1. Organizing annual board training for both Youth clubs.
2. Arranging quarterly collaborative service projects between the three Rotary factions.
3. Creating a comprehensive personal inventory database to connect the wealth of experience in RCS to our Youth.
4. A complete overhaul, uniformity, and documentation of all Youth standards and procedures.
5. Increasing Youth voice in necessary sponsor club decision-making.

The Rotary Club of Shanghai recognizes these merits and strives to create better connections between Rotarians and our Youth Clubs. We love to hear from our clubs and keep abreast of their progress. Unfortunately, Covid19 led to the cancellation of our annual Interact night dinner. The loss of this event profoundly saddens us. However, the wonders of modern technology and media allow our Interactors can still share the ups and downs of their past year.

First meeting of the Youth Service Committee 2020-2021



Interact Reflections: Nanmo - Nanyang Model High School



“Interact provides us with the opportunity to help more people in the world with our broader vision and maturing skills. From this precious experience, we learn to give and to cooperate. Empathy, kindness, sincerity -- these are the simplest and the most beautiful merits that we derive from our fellows, and in the eyes of those willing to help. We are fully aware of the heavy responsibilities lying on our shoulders, and we will [be] sure to turn pressure into motivation and attain more knowledge to become better people and help the world more.

Unfortunately, due to the small outbreak of chickenpox on our campus and the worldwide epidemic of Coronavirus, INTERACT was unable to carry out the original activities as much as intentionally planned. We had a series of group meetings between the members and set a few rounds of recruiting process such as interviews and volunteering. We put up posters everywhere on the campus and made considerable efforts to deliver the critical message of INTERACT. We have already recruited a group of gifted and passionate students as the new members of Nanmo INTERACT, some of which might take up the leadership from us and lead INTERACT in Nanmo to an even brighter future.

As mentioned above, these activities and campaigns originally planned met a lot of obstacles this school year. Still, we shouldn't blame it all on the pandemic. The lack of communication and cooperation between our chief members and relatively low efficiency may be partially responsible. If we enhanced our communication efficiency and improved the flexibility of our organization since our members are in separate classes, maybe the whole recruiting process could have gone more smoothly and may give us more time to hold other related events on INTERACT before the outbreak of COVID-19.

What's more, despite the activities we had on our own campus, as the only local school in Shanghai INTERACT, we lacked conversation and interactions with other member schools in Shanghai. Those who had kept in touch with us were not able to align with us on the timeline since we had many differences in the school schedule. If there's one thing I wish I could improve, I want to develop more ideas to break down the barriers between other international member schools and us. Thus, we can finally work as a whole.

The whole team of Nanmo INTERACT has learned a great deal from one year's experience. INTERACT gives us the golden opportunities to meet new friends and partners and give us a chance to take a glimpse at the outside world. This semester is truly a special one for all the chief members of INTERACT. Every one of us was facing part of our college entrance examination at the end of the semester. But INTERACT let us all take a break from our homework and study, just to take a look from a brand new perspective. Outside of our classroom, we saw many people in need of help and those who suffered from diseases, poverty, illness, and war. Due to the global outbreak of Coronavirus, the relationship between nations became ever so intense. It was the spirit of INTERACT that made us understand how essential the mutual understanding and the sense of empathy are to our society.

Working as a team, we have also developed a strong sense of partnership and leadership. We always gathered together to brainstorm for fresh ideas. The experience of participating in INTERACT is one of the luckiest and proudest things that happened in our entire life. We have harvested friendship, team spirit, and the virtue of helping people in need. Now, Nanmo Interact is ready to welcome our new members and pass the lesson we have learned.”

Interact Reflections: SAS Puxi - Shanghai American School



"[We] would like to start the report by thanking the Rotary Club of Shanghai for giving us the opportunity to have an interact club at SAS. We are very proud to be connected to Rotary International through your club.

Throughout the year, we have faced many difficulties with quarantine and before. We have learned that running a club is extremely hard to manage, as our entire officer team were sophomores this year. We tried different methods of meetings, but what we learned is we have to be practical in the minds of a student. They want to help out, but they don't wish to frequent large activities outside of campus. They want to make an impact, but it is harder to motivate them. This is the struggle of making Interact seem appealing and stand out.

What makes Interact special compared to other school clubs? I believe the answer is Rotary, and the connection to real-world people and connections. There are people with all sorts of professions and ethnicities from all across the world, and our interact club should use that to our advantage more. This is the best way to further our experience when dealing with running an interact club.

We have accomplished the seeds of starting a new type of interact Club at SAS Puxi, with a more local form of service. The rotary slogan of service above self is one we take to heart, but we must also be realistic. We have started to set up connections with Special Olympics to promote them even further in our school. We have also reconnected and will continue to support Interact events like Heart of Stars at SCIS. We have also connected with the other interact clubs within Shanghai to organize more events in the future. This year is a genuine stepping stone for the SAS interact club to move forward in a better and stronger fashion.

What we should have done more of is personal engagement and local activities. Throughout the year, we tried to have big activities like library donations or Heart of Stars. Still, both did not receive as much attention as we had hoped. Our members could not see the work that went into the projects, so they didn't contribute much. The locations were also far away, making it seem like a chore. We learned that the Teacher always has to be with us if we do anything off the SAS Puxi campus, which is a big challenge for our projects. We also had not set up the authority to really make the interact meetings formal because we were learning what Interact was all about during the year. This made the potential members see us less favorably. The officers of the next year will make sure to have a clear meeting structure, a designated plan for each month, and a way to keep in contact with all members at the same time.

We have learned from Interact that we need to keep meetings structured and organized. This will give us the ability to have the impact and inclusion of students we are looking for now. With chaotic meetings, ideas and thoughts get thrown around without actually being heard. We could miss important opinions from our members. We have to make sure that our advisors also help us with this, as they need to step in to keep the members in line if we can not. Without a clear cut plan, nothing will be beneficial and will be attained, and therefore it will be much harder to succeed in Interact as an officer. We know that next year will be challenging, but we are sure that with the strong foundation we have created this year, SAS Puxi's Interact club has a bright future."

Interact Reflections: SCIS Hongqiao - Shanghai Community International School

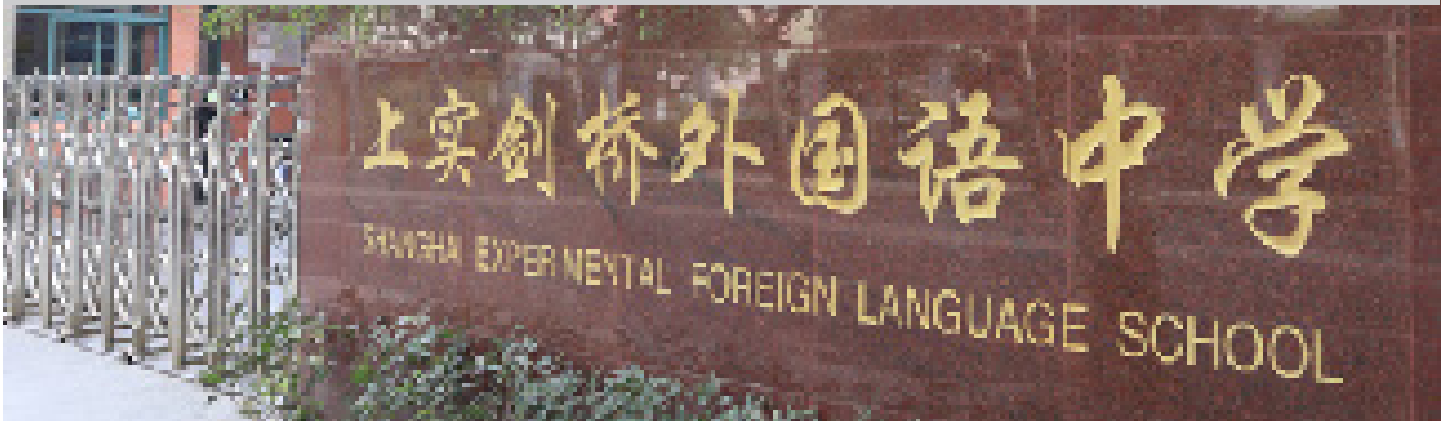


“We have seen COVID-19 act as not only a severe health hazard to the world, but as a pandemic that has limited our ability to physically reach out to those in need. Shanghai Community International School, Hongqiao (SCIS) has partnered with Heart to Heart throughout the years to provide children in rural China access to heart surgery. One of the outlets SCIS Interact has used to raise money is our annual talent show, Heart of Stars, in which students from the Shanghai community perform and compete for a cash prize. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, we were unable to host the event in person. That said, the Interact board rose to the challenge and created a virtual Heart of Stars concert to raise money for Heart to Heart while sending a message of solidarity among the Shanghai community.

Creating this event was not easy. It came with a multitude of logistical, technological challenges, calling for endless hours of testing software and virtual rehearsals. Additionally, deciding to change our approach of the event by framing it as a concert rather than a competition resulted in having to restructure our promotion and recruitment strategies. That said, we ended up raising 10,216 RMB. As an Interact club, we felt that we truly demonstrated the purpose of Interact by putting service above self during even the most adverse and unprecedented times. We want to thank other Interact clubs that have helped us throughout the process, our performers, and our donors. Let’s hope this event can be in-person next year!”



Interact Reflections: SEFLS - Shanghai Experimental Foreign Language School



“In the last two years, we actively organized various charitable activities. Most of them are weekly activities, which include spending time with the elderly, giving them warmth at nursing homes, and taking care of autistic children, helping fruit farmers sell unmarketable fruit and team-building with other schools.

During these activities, we also meet some challenges, but we have already taken actions to overcome these difficulties. For example, since we have around fifty members, and each has a different time schedule, it is almost impossible for fifty students to go out at once. In response, we gathered everyone’s timetable. Based on that, we designed several sessions for the same activity within their free time for them to choose the one that perfectly fit them. This allows members to maximize their volunteering time without missing too many lessons.

There are also many new opportunities are waiting for us. In the future, we will try to make the charitable activities more manifold to help more people in poverty. Under the global pandemic, we are more obligated to help those in poverty, especially those who have suffered enormously from losing their relatives, jobs, etc. Next term, we will devote more time and effort into community programs and try to do something to reduce the burden on workers. Within our club, we would like to improve our communication channels and receive more reflections and ideas from all members. All in all, I believe there are still many things we can do, and we will



try our best to achieve our expectations and solve the problems we will meet.

From 2018 to 2020 (our programs were suspended in December 2019 due to the COVID-19), we have organized the following:

- 14 visits to nursing homes, with each member spending more than 20 hours
- 21 visits to an orphanage
- 3 charity sales - mainly focused on helping farmers to sell agricultural products)
- 1 large team-building event with other schools
- 6 team-building activities within the club



Interact Reflections: SHSID - Shanghai High school International Division



“The dawn of the 2019-2020 SHSID Interact club brought an air of excitement and new energy as we embarked on our journey together. With a new set of leaders and members, we were ready to carry on while looking for new service opportunities to benefit our local and broader global communities. Little did we know at the onset of the school year, the unique challenges that lay in waiting for all of us, yet, regardless of the obstacles and hurdles, the opportunity to learn, grow and carry on in service will always present itself in full.

Often, one doesn’t need to look far and wide to uncover opportunities to be an agent of service; opportunity is right in front of them waiting to be seized. For us, this first step is to take advantage of on-campus opportunities such as leading activities in the all-day sports meeting and setting up the club fair exhibition. These were both opportunities for us to interact on campus with the student body at large while helping school leadership in creating an exciting and fun event. We also continued visiting the home for the elderly of the community bringing laughter and joy to the residents through games, songs, and joint activity. It is said that the most difficult step is the first one we must take. Yet, we found out that once we put that foot forward and engage with the community in songs and activity, all of those concerns and challenges seemed to evaporate in the sense of community that replaced it. For our members, these visits were an opportunity to help bridge the generational gap while giving far more meaning than merely a time of musical enjoyment.

Similarly, members spent time working with special needs students by offering assistance on learning projects that connected hands-on learning and ideas across different subjects. This opportunity offered our members a separate experience of patiently

working with students who needed extra time and assistance to grasp the task. Working side-by-side with the students and aiding them in a very detailed step-by-step manner added a new understanding of the level of specific direction and patience needed. While these visits were a way for our members to grow and see the world through yet another lens, the students we worked with also enjoyed getting to know their special helper.



As we were finishing our first semester and preparing to enjoy our Spring Festival, the COVID-19 pandemic brought difficulties and challenges which transcended all aspects of our lives. For many, it took significant time to adjust to. Questions like our role in this pandemic and how can I move forward personally and collectively were among the many unearthed during this semester. Among the global hardships and sadness, there were opportunities and stories of people who found ways to press forward despite all odds. We were able to reflect and address the roots of what service is and the vast and creative possibilities associated with it, thanks mainly to the time we shared during this event.

We now stand at the closure of this very unique school year, and our journey brings us to the bridge that will take us across to the new year of 2020-2021. This is the bridge that connects all that has come before, the foundations built & experiences to be agents of service and change, with the excitement of all the opportunities that await us on the other side of the bridge. The 2019-2020 school year gave us more than we could have ever imagined. We are thankful for the positive opportunities we’ve had to grow together in Interact Club at SHSID while also growing as active global citizens. Our journey over the bridge into 2020-2021 now awaits: the sky is the limit on what can be done!”



Interact Reflections: SSES - Shanghai Shangde Experimental School



“The Interact club of SSES was founded in the year 2017 and chartered in 2019. Our accomplishments have included standardizing our bylaws, creating volunteer rotation, devising a plan to collaborate with the middle and primary years, and contributing to student leadership at SSES. We also supported RACS in Run in Blue 2019, and SCIS with Heart to Heart 2020. Our members have developed their communication and collaboration skills while realizing there is room for improvement in our self-management and some media literacy skills.



The SSES club is lucky to have our principal, Service Learning Coordinator, and Dean as supervisors. Our club has been registered as a CAS club, ensuring that we link a culture of service to our academic learning. So far, we operate as a board-only club, requesting volunteers for activities as needed. Hopefully, as our club gains traction, we can expand to an inclusive member club that encompasses students from our local and American curricula. For now, we are always willing to be of service. “

We are just the second board of Interact SSES, so the main work for us it to continue building the foundation of Interact SSES, including parent and further administrative buy-in. We have adapted philosophies from Service Learning into our planning by synthesizing our subject knowledge to our interests, skills, and talents to meet authentic community needs. One of our first team-building sessions featured writing our personal inventories, which helped us better understand ourselves and determine how we can contribute to our team.



Thank you for 'listening' to our Interactors. They have had an unforgettable year of growth, and we are proud of their personal, academic, and service accomplishments. Our Interact Board Training should take place in November, with a combined Tedx session in the pipeline for next year. The YSC welcomes interested Rotarians to volunteer as speakers to either event. More information of both will follow.

Youth Service Committee:

- Naomy H. Peña - Chair and SSES, SCIS & Nanmo mentor
- Motohiro Yamane - Chief Youth Advisor and SHSID mentor
- Ludovic Anterieur - Chief Youth Advisor
- Frank Mulligan - SEFLS mentor and Youth advisor
- Tiziana Richiardi - District relations advisor
- Terri Lau - RCS IPP and networking advisor
- Tracy Hua - RCS President and administrative advisor
- Rita Malvone - Service advisor
- Yannick Stubbe - RACS representative

Rotaract Club of Shanghai - Handover



By Jon-Mikel Best - RACS Secretary

THE OPENING

The Annual Board Handover is a Rotary tradition where the previous board ceremoniously passes on the mantle to the upcoming one. The new board is formally introduced and pinned, with the president and vice president sharing their visions for the upcoming rotary year, building upon existing accomplishments and documentation while making improvements.



This year, the ceremonies were held at the Kunlun Hotel, thanks to efforts made by AG Andrew Hill and PP Motohiro Yamane. In Rotary spirit, the evening began with social exchanges, as invited

Rotaract and Rotarians from visiting clubs, representatives from our sponsor club, friends and even an Interactor became better acquainted.

RACS IPP Chloe Kamps kicked off the event with a moving opening speech, in which she described some of the highlights of her year as President and expressed her gratitude to her board and the YSC and the sponsor club for their amazing support. On behalf of her team, Chloe presented our sponsors with certificates of recognition for their various contributions to her team's accomplishments.

RCS IPP Terri Lau also conveyed her gratitude for the opportunity to be part of our ceremony, sharing her personal experience as President working along with RACS through the YSC led by Rotarian Naomy Pena.

She shared her admiration at the plethora of projects organized by the previous RACS board and her hopes that the new board would continue on that path. After a few words of encouragement from RCS President Tracy Hua, Rotarian Motohiro Yamane was invited to unveil his gift of customized pins and a banner to the new team, followed by the official pinning of incoming President Cyril Nettey.

THE NEW BOARD

Now officially recognized as the President of the 2020-2021 team, Cyril proceeded in pinning Chloe as IPP, and introducing his board members featured in the photograph below. Appearing from left to right are:

- Linda Liu – Community Service Director
- Rachel Zhang - Treasurer
- Yannick Stubbe – Vice President and YSC representative
- Chloe Kamps – Immediate Past President
- Cyril Nettey – President
- Anastacia Naidoo – Membership Director
- Lareesa Hu – Public Relations Director
- Jon- Mikel Omar Best - Secretary



SPECIAL THANKS TO ROTARIAN LUDOVIC ANTERIEUR FOR BEING OUR PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE EVENING, AND FOR HIS NEVER-ENDING ADVICE.



We also extend our appreciation to the Rotarians who expressed their congratulations and support via social media and via Zoom calls.

THE YEAR AHEAD

Quoting President Cyril, for the upcoming Rotary year, “we have in mind to maintain and continue all major projects and events already put in place by the previous board. Also, we hope to have an increase in collaboration not only with our sponsor club but with other Rotaract clubs in Shanghai and possibly the neighboring cities.” Vice President Yannick Stubbe echoed these aims and added that he is invested in increasing member relations with our sponsor club and Interact, as well as improving membership involvement.

President and Vice President attended the first YSC meeting where they learned about the committee’s framework and objectives for the new year, including our first RACS board training, increased collaboration with Interact Clubs and even adopting a school-club as mentors. At the time of writing, RACS members had already participated in the first joint service project, which featured the much-needed retrofitting of the bathrooms at a migrant school in Suzhou.

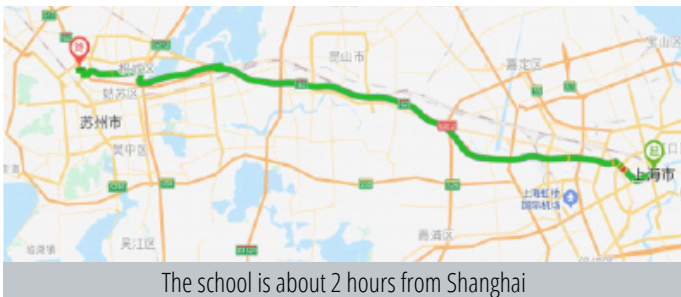
Rotarian Naomi added that along with cooperating with administration and networking advisors RCS President Tracy Hua and IPP Terry Lau to increase collaboration, networking and fellowship between the three factions, the YSC is determined to work with District relations advisor Rotarian Tiziana Richiardi, our President and Secretary, to improve documentation and standardize procedures and policies. Her committee is also dedicated to improving personal and professional development for our members by working closely with the VP and PR to determine the Rotary resources needed to do so. With regards to service, the committee plans to work with the RCS, through guidance by Service advisor Rotarian Rita Malvone to support RACS Community Service Director in building a strong team to engage in diverse, inclusive and meaningful service. Furthermore, RACS has received additional funding to encourage members to attend RCS speaker meetings, and represent ourselves at all club assemblies.

This year promises many changes and improvements with a team and supporters that are set to deliver!

Suzhou Migrant School Service Project



On August 1st, Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and school administrator Cao Yu of SSES, made the long journey to Suzhou to help with the much-needed restoration to a migrant school's bathroom. Rotarians Tiziana Richiardi and Motohiro Yamane generously offered to drive Pudong and Puxi groups to and from the project location.



The school is about 2 hours from Shanghai

Suzhou Dongran Shool is located in Gu su district, Suzhou. Founded in 2000, it is a full-day private school. It covers a total area of approximately 6471 square meters, and the building area covers approximately 3923 square meters. The school currently has a kindergarten and a primary school with 29 classes, accomodating 1500 students and 70 staff members. Most of the students are children of migrant workers.

Due to the lack of maintenance over the years, the damage to the facilities have become very apparent. Our focus pertains to the washrooms, which are in relatively unhygienic conditions, and the breeding of mosquitoes are not conducive to the health of the students and staff. The washbasins outside the washrooms are too high for smaller children to reach. Due to limited space, it is also located 20 meters away from the washrooms at the side of the building in a humid and dark space in poor sanitary conditions. Because the washbasins are so far away, students have developed the unhealthy habit of not washing their hands after using the bathroom.

Wendy Zhu, Program Officer for Habitat for Humanity China (HFH) and Rotarian Naomi Pena, RCS Youth Service Committee Chair, organized the project. Their partnership, along with the generous sponsorship by our RCS Service Project Committee and Board members, made this service opportunity available to our volunteers. An exceptional thanks to Rotarians Rita Malvone, Alex Hartmann, and David Smith for their support and swift action that made the event possible.



Wendy Zhu

The team arrived at 10 am, and after completing pandemic prevention checks, Wendy and her partners briefly introduced us to HFH and the day's objectives, and led us in a warm up.



At 10:30 am, Everyone jumped into action! In mixed groups bearing construction gloves, hard hats, masks, and protective goggles, we worked on moving and laying bricks, mixing and pouring cement, plastering walls, and shoveling rubble. The photos capture the energy and enthusiasm of people who genuinely believed and invested in their tasks.



By midday, everyone was sweat-soaked. We paused for an hour lunch of pizza and chicken fingers, reapplied sunscreen and mosquito repellent, journeyed the 10 minutes across the street to the nearest restroom, and went right back to work. The temperature was above 30 degrees Celcius and the humidity at over 70%. Yet, the activities continued with animated jokes and laughs, banter, chants, random photo ops, and reminders to take water breaks from our favorite construction boss affectionately dubbed "Boss Lady." At the end of our 'working day', we received certificates of appreciation from HFH, and our exhausted drivers got us home safe and sound.



In the end, we not only collectively shared the honor of making a meaningful contribution to the lives of over 1500 learners, but we also benefitted from the unique opportunity to get to know members of other clubs, a rarity especially for our Interact team. Throughout the day, we respected our host's privacy by only taking pictures of ourselves at work. This policy reminded our volunteers that the purpose of service is not self-promotion, and we should never display someone's lesser fortune for our benefit. In the spirit of Rotary, such acts are never fair to all concerned.



I want to conclude by extending my most sincere gratitude to those who attended this service project. I have since discovered that the very first Rotary service project was a bathroom restoration in 1907!



Thank you to Rotarians Tracy Hua and Dr. Nikola Urošević for their happy-money contributions to the SPC in support of this project.

Feedback:



It was AWWWWWSSSSOOME! Despite the extremely hot day, we worked hard and we accomplished a lot. We didn't take many pictures because too busy working. The amazing part of the project, putting apart the work and its final goal, was having Interactors/Rotaractors/Rotarians and interactors school management representative all together! Even more incredible was to find out that the very first Rotary Service was the creation of public bathroom (Rotary #1; Rotary Club of Chicago -1907). We're so much following in Paul Harris' footsteps! So much proud of this family and our strong bond!

- Rotarian Tiziana Richiardi

It was RCS' first official service project initiated by the YSC and participated by Rotarian, Rotaractors and Interactors. It established a good model of the role of YSC as a platform of youth service and community service.

- Rotarian Motohiro Yamane

I reflected and spoke briefly about the contributions that we made yesterday in comparison to the [size of the] project. It was minuscule. I believe everyone did gain an appreciation for the time and effort that goes into these projects and more importantly the opportunity to bond with some Rotarians. I think for the most part I see these kind of volunteer activities as more [for] team building and personal gain than it is about the target so as much as possible I'd hope that we can not only show up but also find ways to raise more money for these projects. I'm guessing that's why there was the volunteering fee that was requested by habitat for humanity.

- Rotaractor President Cyril Selasi

终于完成期待已久的苏州东冉小学洗手间改造项目！虽然其实仅仅是整个项目的1/30，然而和水泥，抹墙面，砌砖墙这三大基本建筑工地基本技能已经Get到手。

边做边想，在这烈日之下多少建筑工人为了营生日复一日在尘土中挥汗如雨，最后把丑陋的毛坯房变成温馨的居所，不免心生无限敬意！也特别期待八月底项目完工的最终模样，想着孩子们能拥有一个安全和干净的洗手间，成为这个夏天我们彼此最好的礼物之

- Cao Yu SSES Dean of DP and Activities Director

