



## **Rotary Club of Beijing**

**President: Kevin Fong**

### **Weekly Meeting**

**16 December 2008**

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**608 / 138**

Kempinski Hotel, Beijing

People's Republic of China

Editor: Grace Zhou assisted by Rtn. Gilbert

Pictures: Rtn. Peter Danford

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### **Opening**

President Kevin Fong opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to our guests and fellow members.

Sergeant-at-Arms Gilbert welcomed the visiting guests:

Ms. Sun Bin, guest of Rtn. Gilbert  
Mr. Brian Griffin, guest of Rtn. Charles Lagrange  
Mr. Norbert Stoehr, guest of Rtn. Gilbert  
Mr. Benjamin Thoma, guest of Rtn. Gilbert  
Mr. Rigobert Itoua, guest of Rtn. Gilbert and Rtn. Russ Miller  
Mr. Martial Itoua, son of Rigobert Itoua and guest of Rtn. Gilbert  
Ms. Ilse Mann, guest of Rtn. Niels-Uwe Behrens

### **Happy Money**

During the meeting, Sergeant-at-Arms Gilbert raised RMB 2295

### **Attendance**

Attendance rate was 28%

### **Banner Exchange**

No banners were exchanged during the meeting.

## New member induction

President Kevin Fong, on behalf of Club Membership Chair Peter Humphrey, chaired the member induction ceremony for our new member, Rigobert Itoua. Rtn. Gilbert acted as sponsor, also representing Rtn. Russ Miller who could not attend.

Rigobert has been Minister Counselor for the Embassy of the Republic of Congo since 2005. He has served on diplomatic postings in China, Cuba and at home in the Congo Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has participated in various Congo delegations to the United Nations General Assembly, the Organization of African Unity and the Copenhagen World Peace Congress.

After the induction ceremony, Rtn. Rigobert made a short speech expressing his happiness in joining the club, adding that he is looking forward to participating in our club activities and services.

## Report & Announcements

Rtn. Joerg-Michael Luther informed members that following his imminent retirement, he will leave China and this will be his last attendance at the RCB weekly meetings. He expressed his great sadness at leaving China, a place he found to be full of challenges and surprises which made his life all the more interesting. On behalf of the club, President Kevin thanked Rtn. Luther for his contribution to the club and wished him all the best for his new life after retirement.

President Kevin reported to members that on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Rtn. Peter Humphrey, together with visiting Rotarian Helen Boyle, her guest, Danny Vincent and himself visited the Xingxingyu Autism Children's School to inspect the school's renovation of the office and buildings which our Club had assisted with. The children at the school presented the club with a picture as a small gift, a painting done by one of the children.

President Kevin chaired the Birthday celebration at today's meeting. All members and guests wished happy birthday greetings to Rtn. Stephane Grand, Rtn. Joerg Wuttke, Rtn. Christoph Mueller, Rtn. Christopher Verrill, and Rtn. Gilbert Van Kerckhove. As representatives of the birthday boys, Rtn Gilbert and his wife Sun Bin cut the cake.

President Kevin reported that due to the coming Christmas season, the coming two Tuesday meetings i.e., for the last two weeks of December, will be held as fellowship meetings.

## Speaker's Program

There was no Speaker's Program today.

## Conclusion

President Kevin Fong closed the meeting with a toast to the visiting clubs, Rotary International, our sister Clubs - the Rotary Club of Copenhagen, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, Rotary Club of Great Neck, the Rotary Club of Shanghai, the Rotary Club of Del Mar and Interact Club of Dulwich College Beijing.

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Rtn. Gilbert, PR Director and webmaster.