

RFPD EVENT COUPLED WITH ROTARY-UN DAY

Fundamental Challenges to International Community Development

Women's Empowerment & Education, Maternal Health & HIV/AIDS Conference

November 2 & 3, 2006

Bill Cadwallader, PRID & Conference Chairman

The Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development (RFPD) will hold a conference to discuss the four major obstacles to international community development, 2-3 November 2006 at the Hilton Hotel Ft. Lee, New Jersey (across the Hudson River from NYC). The United Nation Population Fund's most expert speakers on maternal health, HIV/AIDS and women's empowerment will provide basic facts during plenary sessions that will be further considered in eight separate discussion groups.

Topics to be discussed will be "Challenges to the Education of Women," "Developing Projects for Maternal Health," "Training Health Care Workers," "Micro-credit to Empower Women," and "Maternal Health, including Obstetrical Fistula." Afternoon discussions will teach new methods for Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for both pregnant women and high school seniors to reduce the transmission of HIV as well as medical and treatment information about HIV/AIDS.

Past Rotary International President, Frank Devlyn, will address Rotarians and guests at the Friday night banquet. The banquet is open to Rotarians in surrounding districts who may not be able to attend the seminars of the day. Devlyn's topic will be, "The Most Basic Challenge to Sustainable International Development."

The luncheon speaker will be world-renown expert, Werner Fornos, Past President of the Population Institute. He will address "Women's Empowerment: Its Impact on Water, Hunger, Literacy and the Environment."

This international development conference is being held in conjunction with Rotary's UN Day on Saturday, November 4, 2006. Buses will be available to transport conference attendees to and from the UN Building in Manhattan to allow free parking at the Ft. Lee Hilton Hotel.

Matters to be discussed in Ft. Lee are cutting edge. Concerns will impact any success dreamed of for adequate safe water, sufficient nourishing food to prevent hunger, availability of appropriate schooling to insure literacy for all children, and health care to provide hope in all nations of great poverty.

A Project Fair will be on site to facilitate projects relating to the topics being discussed. Rotarians should come prepared to put words into action, and support the visions and goals of our fellow Rotarians in developing nations. Their projects for both community and regional levels of work are very important.

Exhibits will be present to show how to use mass radio broadcasting to change the sexual and health related attitudes of large populations of people.

Information relative to this important conference can be found on RFPD's website at www.rifpd.org. You will find the tentative agenda and registration form. Cost is US \$190.00 per person. Registrations should be made through Jennifer Hendrickson (rifpd@aol.com). Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Hilton Hotel, phone 201-461-9000. Mention that you are with Rotary RFPD for a special rate of US \$130.00 per night, plus tax. Hope to see you there!

- by Bill Cadwallader