

THOUGHTS ON FUTURE VISION,

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We have looked at the document **What are your thoughts on Future Vision?** and the [www. Rotarians-Matter.org](http://www.Rotarians-Matter.org) and have some thoughts to add.

In the first place, and VERY important in our opinion, is the personal and unique nature of every Rotary Club. Rotary International does all its humanitarian work through the clubs and they are the workplaces of all projects and fellowship throughout the world. We have attended meetings in many Districts and many countries, and every single Rotary Club is unique. The members are a specific group of people who are focused and work well together, the club has its own atmosphere, formal or less formal, and each town has needs and requirements different from other areas. One seldom sees city clubs with hands-on connections with the wider community that clubs in rural areas have. Each geographical area also has unique needs. Developing countries also have very specific needs within quite small spaces. It would be counter-productive to throw all the needs together in the hope that something better would emerge, it would not! Global Grants would be much larger, much less personal to each club, and one would struggle to get Rotarians to feel involved in projects that do not “speak” to them.

Visiting Rotary groups such as GSE teams, Ambassadorial Scholars etc. are an important link in making international contacts. If the host club works well with such groups, long lasting contacts are made, and humanitarian projects that both parties feel they know can be initiated. Many needy organisations have been assisted locally as a result of such meetings between like-minded Rotary people, and the projects have been manageable because they are not huge and impersonal.

GSE Teams and Ambassadorial Scholars target young people who comply demographically with groups whom Rotary wishes to interest in membership of the organisation. While they are part of the Rotary exchange, the younger people experience a full introduction to Rotary values and ways. Such “training” should be valued as an important resource, not discarded because it is undervalued.

It is disturbing to read about “Disenfranchisement of Rotarians during implementation and especially during testing under the Future Vision Pilot”, as well as “Lack of two-way communication during implementation and testing conducted under the Future Vision Pilot”. This Rotary District did not participate in the pilot programme, but it is unsatisfactory to read that only DG’s and DRFC’s reported back. One wonders if they were impartial? What did ordinary Rotarians and individual Rotary Clubs think of the changes?

We firmly believe that “proven projects that provide life-changing benefits” should continue to be funded. Teaching a man to fish in a short time is not generally viable in areas that are basically neglected and do not have the necessary resources.

World Community Service needs to find its way to remote rural areas, off the beaten track, and far from the usual city centres where most Rotary Clubs cluster themselves, and in our opinion it is essential and very effective when local and international partners know each other personally.

As far as wastage of Rotary resources is concerned, we believe that all Rotarians are equal, and the Office of the President should set an example of thriftiness and willingness to behave like normal people, not set themselves above those who support humanitarian projects so generously, and indirectly their expenses.

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