



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND ZONE

### THEME FOR 2008-2009 ANNOUNCED



At the recent International Assembly in San Diego, **RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee** announced the 2008-09 RI theme of *Make Dreams Real*. To accomplish his focus on reducing preventable deaths of children, Lee told the incoming governors that Rotary will keep the service emphases of recent years -- water, health and hunger, and at a future," said Lee. "We will bring clean water to their communities and create sanitation projects that keep children healthy." This will be the theme during District Governor-Elect Janine's year.

### ZONES 23 and 24 TO RECOGNIZE PREMIER ROTARY PROGRAMS

**Does your club have a terrific Rotary program that you would like to share with other clubs throughout our two Zones?** There's a great new recognition program in Zones 23 & 24. The Mission of the **Premier Rotary Programs** is to shine a spotlight on a select number of emerging or established Rotary community service programs created by individual clubs in order to provide opportunities for Rotary clubs to learn about new and innovative programs that might be replicated in their own clubs. Too often Rotary clubs have great programs to share but no easy mechanism by which to share them. This project is a great way to get recognition. To see the requirements and how to apply, see <http://www.rotaryzone2324.org/programs.html>. You can also contact Candy Pierce at [candy4golf@aol.com](mailto:candy4golf@aol.com) – 707-953-3735.

### INDIAN ROTARIAN DONATES \$2 MILLION

By Tiffany Woods, Rotary International News - 24 January 2008  
Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio have gotten a \$2 million boost from a Rotarian diamond and jewelry magnate. Harshad Mehta, a native of India who is a senior partner in the Belgium-based Rosy Blue diamond and jewelry company, has pledged to donate the money to Rotary's polio eradication efforts over the next three years. Mehta, the largest Indian donor to The Rotary Foundation, was inspired to make the commitment after learning about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication. Rotary must match the grant dollar for dollar over a three-year period. Mehta serves as chair of the United Arab Emirates operations of Rosy Blue, a family business that employs more than 15,000 people around the world. He's also Armenia's honorary consul in Mumbai and the vice chair of the Dubai Diamond Exchange. He is a past chair of the Gem and Jewelry Export Promotion Council and a past vice president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations.