

IRFHP AT THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN TAIPEI

Chris and I attended the five-day Rotary International (RI) Convention from 13 to 18 June.

This was the 17th International Convention we have attended, and, like all previous conventions, it was truly inspiring. It reaffirmed our belief that RI is a force for good in an increasingly unstable world, and that its international impact continues to grow.



There were 37,000 attendees from around the world, exchanging ideas and forming new friendships.

The plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and the large House of Friendship gave Rotary clubs, districts, Rotary Fellowships, and Action Groups valuable opportunities to promote a wide range of Rotarian-led programmes.



There were impressive programmes covering all Areas of Focus, including Disease Prevention and Treatment, Maternal and Child Health, Water and Sanitation, Basic Education and Literacy, the Environment, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, and Community Economic Development.

OUR BOOTH

Our booth in the House of Friendship was colourful and visible. The banners were well designed and featured some of our recent activities and projects.

There was a steady stream of visitors to the booth. Most new visitors had never heard of the Fellowship. We were able to tell them about some of the positive features of our Fellowship:

- We welcome health professionals from all disciplines of healthcare, reflecting current good practices in medical practice – multidisciplinary team work and holistic care.
- Membership is open to non-Rotarians also.
- There is a vast range of Rotary funded, and Rotarian led healthcare programmes whose impact could be increased by joined up work and improved collaboration.



- We emphasise and promote culturally sensitive, evidence-based programmes which are sustainable and scalable.
- We've two subgroups promoting
 - 1) Patient Safety
 - 2) Safe and Sustainable Medical Equipment Supply
 We would like to form more subgroups promoting different initiatives
- We are a registered charity in the United Kingdom.
- We've three branches (Chapters) in Egypt, Uganda and Ukraine – we would like more chapters in other countries.

IRFHP MEETING

At the Convention, we were allocated a room for a 1-hour meeting which I chaired.

As before, information about this meeting was circulated to all members and presentations invited. We received 10 queries and expressions of interest. From this, four were invited to make 10-minute presentations at the meeting.

- Delivery of mobile healthcare in Uganda - Mauri Okamoto-Kearney
- Prevention of tuberculosis in Nepal - Leckman
- Hernia Aid – making effective hernia repair affordable by Andrew Kingsnorth
- Kangaroo Mother Care – lessons learned from Ukraine by John Philip
- The formal presentations were followed by Ann Evans talking about preventable blindness.
- Action Group as our Fellowship status fails to portray our strength.

OUR KEY INITIATIVE IN UKRAINE

Our current initiative, supplying Kangaroo Mother Care carriers to the Association of Neonatologists in Kyiv and, through them, to a number of perinatal units, attracted considerable attention.

This project has the potential to be used in other areas affected by conflict.

Building on this momentum, we are preparing to hold a workshop in Moldova to promote, strengthen, and expand the reach of KMC.

As a registered charity in the United Kingdom, the Fellowship is appealing for support to continue and scale up this project in Ukraine and beyond.

The project has already received support from clubs in RGBI, Canada, and Austria.

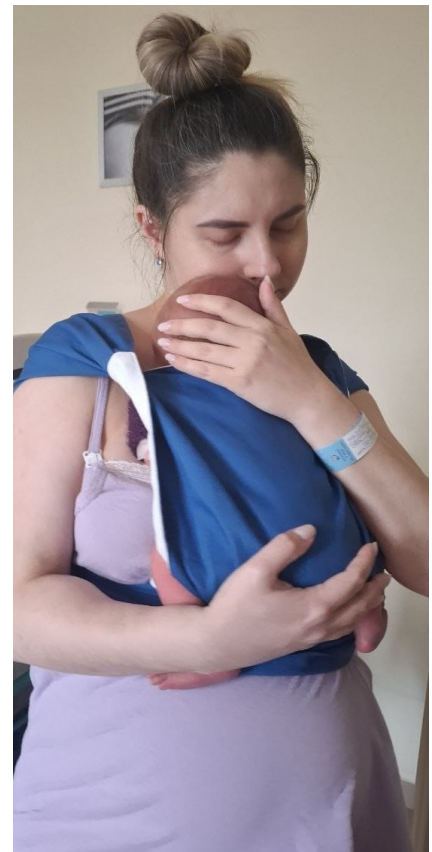
NEW MEMBERS

8 New members joined the Fellowship at the Convention.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

Members signalled three connected issues: communication gaps, an outdated digital presence, and a mismatch between our impact and our formal Rotary status.

- Several members commented that our communication with members need improvement
- There were many comments that our website contents are not UpToDate and do not reflect the strength of the Fellowship
- Other suggestions included improved social media presence, becoming an Action Group as our Fellowship status fails to portray our strength



John Philip

06 July 2026