



Rotary International District 3450 launches its first International Humanitarian award, THE ONE, in hopes of finding the Mother Teresa of tomorrow

(Hong Kong, June 2012) This year Rotary International District 3450 honours the world's unsung heroes with a life-changing International Humanitarian Award called, THE ONE.

Conceptualised and founded by District Governor (2011-2012) David Harilela, THE ONE is dedicated to finding the hero of all heroes. Inspired by the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," THE ONE is an individual who dedicates his or her daily life to serving others, and helping those in need to alleviate pain, suffering, poverty and hunger. Now in its inaugural year, it is hoped that THE ONE will create a legacy that will continue for many generations to come.

The winner of the award will receive US\$100,000 to further their respective humanitarian cause and service projects, while the remaining 4 finalists will be awarded with US\$5,000 each. The award of US\$100,000 has been generously endowed by respected Hong Kong businessman and Chairman and Founder of Noble Group, Richard Samuel Elman. The winner will also receive THE ONE Trophy created especially by David Harilela and sponsored and brought to life by the artistry of Baccarat.

Nominations for the award were received from Rotary's powerful network of over 1.2 million people in countries spanning the globe from Asia to Africa. The panel of judges featured top professionals from the local community as well as journalists, professors and experts working in the micro-finance field for the third world countries. Among the final judging panel are: Hon. Justice Mohan Bharwaney; Vice Director of Hong Kong Basic Law Committee Ms. Elsie Leung; Vice Chancellor of Chinese University, Professor Joseph J.Y Sung; and THE ONE award sponsor, Richard Samuel Elman.

The final five finalists, along with their inspiring stories, were revealed in March and include: Valerie Browning who's work takes place in Ethiopia; Father Joe

Maier from Thailand; Dr Daniel Murphy from East Timor; Ma Cecilia Flores-Oebanda from the Philippines; and Shruti A Shroff from India.

THE ONE will come to a climax at THE ONE Award Gala Dinner, which will be held on the 8th of June 2012 at The Holiday Inn Golden Mile, Hong Kong. As one of the highlights on this year's social calendar, the event will be attended by leading members of the community and local celebrities, as well as the five finalists who will be flown in from around the world. It promises to be an evening full of fun, entertainment and stories that will touch your heart.

For more information please visit THE ONE website at www.theonerotary3450.org.

About Rotary International & District 3450

Rotary is a volunteer organisation of 1.2 million business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace. Over 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries conduct projects to address today's challenges – including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water and environmental concerns – while encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations.

As the world's largest private provider of international scholarships, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International helps about 1,000 students annually to study abroad and serve as cultural ambassadors. Rotary also partners with seven prestigious universities around the world, providing opportunities to earn a master's degree in peace and conflict resolution.

PolioPlus is Rotary's flagship programme. By the time polio is eradicated, Rotary club members will have contributed US\$1.2 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries. Rotary is a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rotary International District 3450, with over 80 years of history, now comprises of 66 clubs in Hong Kong, Macao and Mongolia. Hong Kong consists of 52 clubs (including 1 E-Club), 6 in Macau and 8 in Mongolia.

Detailed biographies of David Harilela, Richard Samuel Elman, the finalists and judging panel are also available on request.

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