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President's travels

(1) RI President Gary C.K. Huang visits the newsroom of Arirang TV, a major Korean network, to discuss Rotary and its impact on the world. **(2)** At a commemorative tree planting ceremony in Paju, Korea, Huang and his wife, Corinna Yao, lend a hand. **(3)** In Cairo, Huang attends the Water Is Life summit. **(4)** Huang receives an honorary doctorate of business administration from National Taipei University of Technology. **(5)** Republic of China Premier Jiang Yi-huah honors Rotary by presenting a plaque to Huang.



DHARMA MASTER Cheng Yen, founder of Tzu Chi Foundation, an international humanitarian organization, was presented with the 2014 Rotary International Award of Honor by RI President Gary C.K. Huang in recognition of her contributions toward the humanitarian spirit and world peace.

To help the poor in eastern Taiwan, she founded the Tzu Chi Foundation in 1966. Tzu Chi's beginnings were humble: Master Cheng Yen encouraged her 30 followers to save about US\$0.02 of their grocery money every day to assist those in need. Today, Tzu Chi is involved in international disaster relief, bone marrow donation, environmental protection, and community volunteerism, operating under the idea that a lack of altruistic love for others has been the root of many problems in the world. Its guiding principle on charity is "educating the rich to help the poor." Tzu Chi and Rotary share a common philosophy and objective: to promote world peace through selfless service.

At 77, Master Cheng Yen continues to oversee the many projects that Tzu Chi operates throughout Taiwan. Volunteers are working in 69 countries, through 502 offices worldwide. Master Cheng Yen is one of many distinguished recipients of the RI Award of Honor. Previous awardees include Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; former South African President Nelson Mandela; former U.S. presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton; former U.S. First Lady Laura Bush; Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan; Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates; former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev; and President Pranab Mukherjee of India. The award was created in 1990 to recognize an individual's work toward eradicating poverty and promoting world peace. The RI president presents the Award of Honor during the presidential year, and honorees are chosen at the discretion of the president.



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(6) Barbara Hofmann (second from right) receives “The One” International Humanitarian Award in Hong Kong. Huang made a guest appearance at the gala dinner. (7) In Jakarta, Indonesia, Huang recognizes Rotarians and Arch C. Klumph Society members Eva Kurniaty and Mustain Sjadzali. (8) Martial arts actor Donnie Yen gets an invitation from Huang to join the Rotary Club of Kowloon Golden Mile, Hong Kong. (9) Huang celebrates the chartering of New Zealand’s first bilingual club, the Rotary Club of Auckland South.



To spread the word about thalassemia, the most common inherited single-gene disorder, Huang and 2,500 university students participate in a record-breaking blood screening in Indonesia.