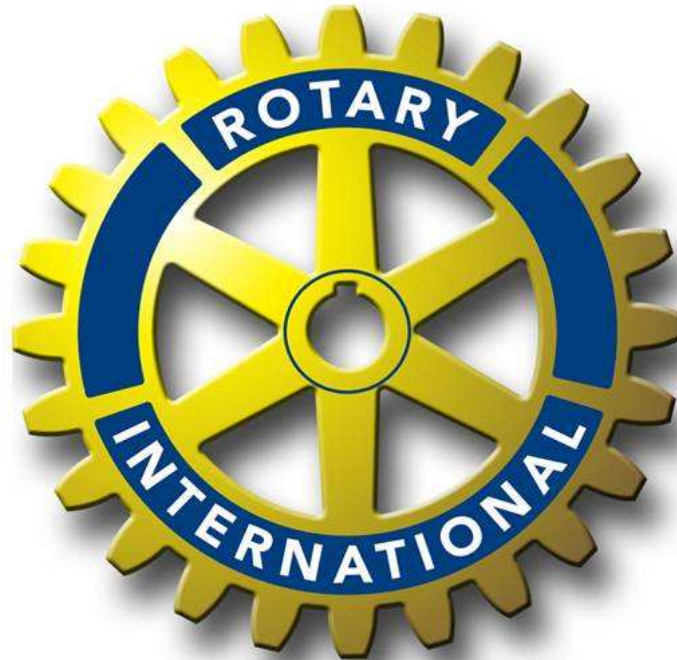




AHG OF INGOs
Representatives to FAO in Rome

FAO Conference 2011

June 25 – July 2





Rotary International



Rotary is a worldwide organization of more than 1,2 million business, professionals, and community leaders.

Members of Rotary clubs, known as Rotarians, provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help built goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 33.000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Clubs are non-political, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races and creeds.

As signified by the motto " Service Above " Rotary's main objective in service- in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the worldwide.

Since the early 1990's through two specific initiatives called matching and 3H (Hunger, Health and Humanity) the Rotary Foundation has funded microcredit projects that we call revolving loans or village banking managed by a special section named Microcredit Action Group that is one of the most active among the 15 Action Groups that cover various sectors as Water and Sanitation, Population Growth & Sustainable Development, Literacy, Hunger & Malnutrition... and so on.

Recent R.I: figures indicate that our organization has placed microcredit grants of 5.5 million US dollars to some 230 projects.

In addition 1,2 million US dollars coordinated by only one district over the last five years.

Development areas are in Latin America, Asia and Middle East and Africa.

There is no such thing as a "typical" Rotary Microcredit Project, since customs and practices vary by region and country, but there are some generalities that apply:

- Small groups of 5-30 people within a village, usually women
- First loan of 75-500 US dollars depending on the location and needs
- Loan cycles vary from 3 months to 2 years. But typically 3-6 months
- No group member may receive a new loan until the entire group is up to date on all payments.

As you know there are more than 3000 NGO Microfinance Institution worldwide and a new strategic partnership has been signed between RI and OIKOCREDIT International a Netherlands based cooperative financial institution that promotes socially responsible investing.

In conclusion

- Give a woman a fish, she eats for a day
- Teach a woman to fish, she eats for a life time
- Provide credit and training, she opens a seafood stand, feeds the village and becomes a leader in the community.

Antonio Lico – rotary 2080 – past Governor