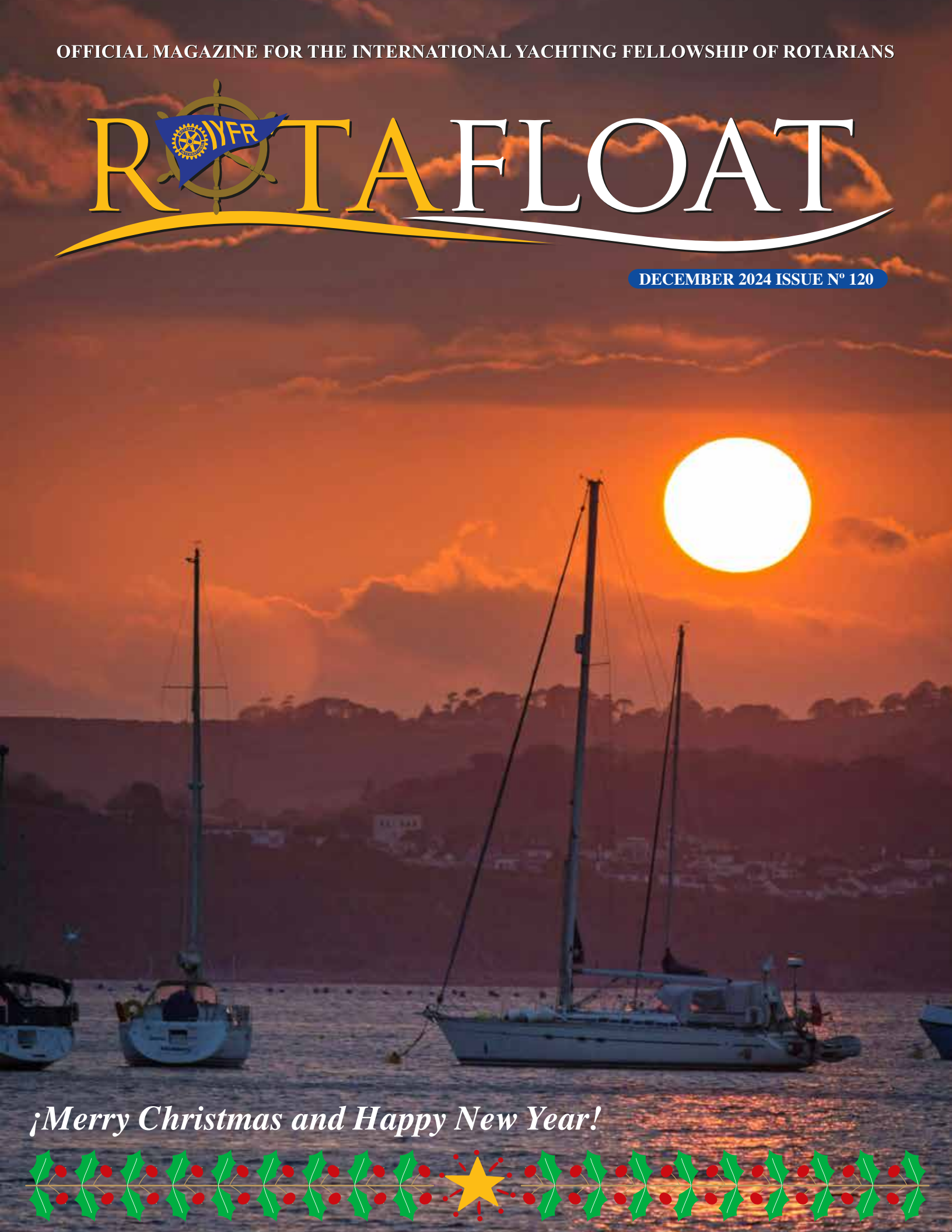


OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

ROTAFLOAT

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE N° 120



¡Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





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ROTAFLOAT'S CORRESPONDENTS

Thanks to the collaboration of the Rotafloat's correspondents, this edition has been possible. Our public gratefulness.

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 Rosmarie Cammany
 Olha Paliychuk
 Dieter Ambrosius
 Sergio Santi

Marthe Rabbiosi
 Alfonso Bolio
 Ricardo Aguerre
 Geraldine C. Repollo
 Marina Chen
 Paul Yiu

Silvia Callorda, editor



Angélica Mesistrano

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE



INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

December 2024

Dear Commodores and Mariners

I am pleased to greet you as we finish this year 2024. It has been a very active year in our fellowship, a year of membership growth, new fleets joining us, international visits, new projects and the incessant activity of our Plastic Free Waters program. I also had some very pleasant surprises. One of them has been my trip to Asia. The International Commodores, in the two years in that position, visited the three Areas. I had visited Area 3 in the southern hemisphere, but not

in the northern hemisphere. One Sunday morning I open my email and read a cordial invitation from IRC Paul Yiu to visit them in Taiwan and the Philippines, and thus share the delivery of the Charter of two new fleets, Taiwan Light Up and Makati Stars. My answer was... Why not? Although there are 25,000 kilometers between my country and Taiwan, the distance is not felt when it is a visit from friends. Many hours of flight and stopovers, but finally I had the pleasure of meeting friends I had not seen for a long time. I also got to know different cultures. They were days shared where I enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of our fellowship. Since I landed in Asia, I was always surrounded by friends who made my movements and adaptation easier, although jet lag did its part. Everything was in an atmosphere of camaraderie and joy. I found many smiles, affection, toasts, many toasts full of good wishes. I am really very happy to have traveled to Asia. As I was telling my friends, our fellowship does not understand differences of cultures, languages or distances. It does not matter which continent we live on, we all speak the same language, it is the language of giving of ourselves, the language of service and our great love of sailing. I will not describe the founding ceremonies of the two new fleets because they can be seen in the Area 3 section of this Rotafloat. At the risk of adding too many photos, I have prepared some images from my trip through Taiwan and the Philippines, which I am happy to share in an article below.

I would like to express my gratitude to those who made my visit to Asia so enjoyable.

Thanks to PIC Jun Avecilla, IRC Paul Yiu, A3C Edmond Aguilar, RC Arturo Supangan, PRIP Gary Huang, DG Healthy Liou, the Fleet Commodores of Taiwan Region, the Fleet Commodores of Philippines Region and all the mariners, for all their attentions and affection shown. I returned home with a suitcase full of courtesies and in my eyes and heart the images and memories that will always accompany me. Thank you all dear friends for a wonderful experience.

And if this were not enough to close 2024 with a very happy toast, I have the pleasure of officially announcing that after communications, explanations, exhibition of historical photos, etc., Rotary International finally recognizes that the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is the oldest fellowship in RI. We are the fellowship with the greatest number of uninterrupted years of activity.

Dear friends all, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a 2025 full of love, peace, health and prosperity.



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INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025

Angélica Mesistrano (Argentina)

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE

Carlo d'Amore (Spain)

INTERNATIONAL VICE COMMODORE – A1C

Paul Yiu (Taiwan)

INTERNATIONAL REAR COMMODORE

Sergio Santi (Italy)

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Miriam Caudullo (Argentina)

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AREA 3 COMMODORE

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Annette Lewis (Great Britain)

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Oscar Fontalvo (Colombia)

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HISTORIAN OFFICER

Laura Padoan (Italy)

AREA 1 REGALIA OFFICER

Edgardo Gargano (Uruguay)

AREA 2 REGALIA OFFICER

Chia-Yu (Jade) Kuo (Taiwan)

AREA 3 REGALIA OFFICER

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 21 – 25 JUNE 2025

As the countdown to June 21, 2025 continues, the City of Calgary and Rotary District 5360 extend a warm invitation to the world. Prepare to be captivated by its vibrant culture, embraced by its hospitality, and inspired by the spirit of our fellowship as we gather in this iconic destination.



Imagine the excitement and energy when we, the family of Rotary, all come together at one time, in one place and renew our commitment to being people of action.



In Calgary every experience is an adventure.



IYFR, Calgary and our Rotary friends from Canada are waiting for us to enjoy an unforgettable convention!

We will have a different Post Convention Cruise to enjoy some wonderful days. At the next Rotafloat we will announce the complete program of the Calgary 2025 convention.



Don't forget to reserve a few days in June 2025 to enjoy the international meeting of our fellowship! We will have our booth at the House of Friendship, as every year.



**The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians
will be waiting for you!**

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POST CONVENTION CRUISE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS CALGARY CONVENTION, CANADA

Banff, Lake Louise & Jasper

June 26 - 28

Day 1: June 26

This morning you will be picked up from the hotel to enjoy a sightseeing tour of Calgary and hear about the history, art, and culture that defines the city.

You will see the Stampede Grounds, Stephen Ave, and the Downtown area. Enjoy a guided tour inside Studio bell, the Calgary Tower, photo stop at Calgary Public Library and the Peace Bridge, before we drive west past Canada Olympic Park and head to the foothills to arrive into Banff National Park.



The town of Banff is at the center of Canada's very first National Park. Nestled high in the Canadian Rockies, the town is located within the Banff National Park. Once "Siding 29" on the Canadian Pacific Railway, the town was intended to be a tourist town from its inception.

Upon arrival, there will be a tour of the town of Banff including Tunnel Mountain, Hoodoos, Bow Falls, Cascade Garden, and the famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.

Enjoy free time to explore on your own followed by a guided tour of the Buffalo Museum and the Cave and Basin.



Next, you will experience the Banff Gondola as you sit back, relax, and marvel at the unsurpassed view of Banff, the Bow Valley, and a 360-degree view of six scenic mountain ranges from 2,281m (7,486 ft) above sea level. Dinner will be served at a mountain-top restaurant to enjoy overlooking Banff in the Canadian Rockies.

Enjoy free time this evening to explore on your own.

Overnight: Banff

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: June.27

This morning the group will arrive at Lake Louise, which is best known for its turquoise glacier-fed lake ringed by high peaks. See the famous and picturesque lake and the Chateau that overlooks it.

Enjoy time for a walk by the lakeside before we drive along the famous Icefields Parkway, voted as one of the most spectacular drives in the world. See why this mountain road boasts a unique landscape rich in history and its natural beauty is so famous.

Enjoy a quick picture stop at Peyto Lake. Before arriving into Jasper, we see the powerful Athabasca Falls before arriving at the charming town of Jasper.

Originally a tiny railway town, Jasper's small-town charm is very different from the alpine resort glamour of Banff. Surrounded by towering mountains, clear lakes, and abundant wildlife, Jasper is located within Jasper National Park, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. We start the day with a walk down Maligne Canyon to see how the water has carved spectacular crevices out of the mountain.



A scenic drive eventually takes you to Maligne Lake, the largest natural lake in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. As we continue deeper into the valley we drive into the sub-alpine forests and view the expanding ranges of limestone rising out of Medicine Lake. This mysterious disappearing lake changes seasonally as the flow rates of melt waters fill and empty this basin. A stop is made to photograph this natural wonder.



From Medicine Lake, we continue through the forest which is a prime habitat for moose and bears. Sightings are common but not guaranteed as we try to see these animals in their natural habitat.

Today's journey takes us through 45 km of the most spectacular scenery anywhere in the Canadian Rockies. The scenic drive finally brings us to beautiful Maligne Lake, the largest natural lake in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

We will take a leisurely 90-minute cruise on the lake and a short walk on legendary Spirit Island. Dinner will be enjoyed lakeside before returning to the town of Jasper for time at leisure.

Overnight: Jasper
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3: June.28

This morning, we return to Calgary. Dropping off at the Calgary International Airport.

Overnight: None
Meals: Breakfast

For more information, please send an inquiry to the "contact us" email on our website www.iyfr.net

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AREA 2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

12 TO 15 MARCH 2025, BUENOS AIRES – ARGENTINA



WEDNESDAY 12th

Reception and transfer from the airport to the hotel for those who request it. Accommodation at Gran Hotel Buenos Aires. Rooms with free Wi-Fi and buffet breakfast. With an excellent location in the heart of the financial and commercial center of Buenos Aires. Close to restaurants, shopping centers, Florida Street, Plaza San Martín, Avenida 9 de Julio.

- 7:00 p.m.: Meet and Greet. Military Circle.

THURSDAY 13th

9.30 am City tour. From the hotel, with air-conditioned transportation, microphone, driver and specialized guide speaking Spanish and English. Route: Teatro Colón, Obelisco, Av. 9 Julio, Plaza de Mayo (stop), Cathedral (where Pope Francis gave masses) Casa Rosada.



Visit to the famous Café Tortoni, San Telmo (oldest neighborhood), San Telmo Market, La Boca (Italian neighborhood). La Bombonera, Calle Caminito (stop), Puerto Madero, Parque 3 de Febrero, walk through the Rosedal. Recoleta, the charm of its streets, El Ateneo Bookstore, with views of monuments, museums, architecture, churches, typical and residential neighborhoods. Stops for photos at places of greatest interest, ending at the Yacht Club Olivos Restaurant.

In the afternoon At Yacht Club Olivos, Annual General Meeting.



FRIDAY 14th

Premium Tigre with lunch.
7.30 am Departure from the hotel to Puerto Madero to board at 8.00 am on a private boat that sails along Rio de la Plata with views of the city of Buenos Aires to the Paraná River Delta. View of the islands, weekend houses, canals, connecting with nature, observing flora and fauna. Rotary service activity at an island school. Then return to Puerto de Tigre.



Time for lunch at Vivanco Restaurant



Visit to the Art Museum. Return to the hotel via the Pan-American Highway.
7.30 pm OPTIONAL "El Viejo Almacén"
Dinner, drinks, Tango Show with round-trip transfers.
Door-to-door price u\$d 130.-

SATURDAY 15th

Country day, at Estancia Santa Susana. Typical Argentine lunch. Show, dances and gaucho skills.



7.00 pm FAREWELL DINNER at Yacht Club Argentino (Puerto Madero)

SUNDAY 16th

Breakfast. Transfers from the hotel back to the airport for those who request it.



WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

Email information:
agm2025argentina@gmail.com

For those who wish to visit other tourist attractions in Argentina, we have tourist packages to visit Salta, Mendoza, Calafate, Iguazu Falls, Bariloche and Mendoza.

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2024 GRANTS AWARD

By PIC & Grants Chairman Jun Avecilla

As previously announced by IC Angelica Mesistrano, the total grants allocation for 2024, in accordance with our General Rules, is set at **US\$30,000**. This amount will be proportionately distributed among applicants from our three Areas based on membership statistics.

International Treasurer Annette Lewis has reported that the Fellowship currently has 3,445 members in good standing, distributed as follows:

- Area 1: 1,629 members (47% of the total membership)
- Area 2: 654 members (19%)
- Area 3: 1,171 members (34%)

Accordingly, the Grant allocation is as follows:

AREA 1 US\$14,100.00
 AREA 2 US\$5,700.00
 AREA 3 US\$10,200

The Grants Committee has received 6 applications for funding of various projects as summarized in a chart table hereunder: Three (3) from Area 1: Italy, Ivory Coast and Slovenia, Two (2) from Area 2: Chile and Uruguay, and One (1) from Area 3: Philippines

IYFR GRANTS 2024 SUMMARY

	APPLICANT and DATE of APPLICATION	ENDORSER	NAME OF PROJECT	PROJECT COST	APPLIED GRANT AMOUNT	START/COMPLETION DATE	GRANT PREVIOUSLY AWARDED	NO. OF ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	REMARKS
1	CHILE Carlo Montalbetti De la maza FC Puerto Varas October 30, 2024	FC Carlo Montalbetti De la maza, FC P. Varas	Sailing School Project Improvement	US\$10,000.000	US\$3,000.00	Jan 2025/ Jun 2025		6 Members	
2	ITALY Antonio Marchesi FC Italy North West October 18, 2024	Antonio Marchesi FC Italy North West	Plastic Free Waters IYFR Site Coordination	USD3,000.00	US\$2,000.00	Jan 2025/Dec 2027		12-15 Members	
3	IVORY COAST Rabbioussi Guessan Affoue FC Flote Cote D'Ivoire October 31, 2024		Zero Plastique Dans Labaie Lagunaire	US\$10,000.000	US\$10,000.00	Jan 2025/Jan 2026		35 Members	Application not signed No endorser
4	PHILIPPINES Jayson Herrero FT Subic Bay Fleet October 29, 2024	Zedrik Avecilla FC Subic Bay Fleet	Optimist and Mirror Dhingles Modernization Program IYFR/Subic Sailing School	US\$15,200.00	US\$15,200.00	Jan 2025/Mar 2025	US\$4,800.00 (2019)	385+ Members	
5	SLOVENIA Aljaz Planinsek October 29, 2024	Samo Krivic FC Slovenia Fleet	Safe @ Sea	US\$25,000.00	US\$6,600.00	Apr 2025/May 2026	US\$1,700.00 (2015) US\$2,000.00 (2017)	4 Members	
6	URUGUAY Ricardo Aguirre FVC Punta Del Este October 29, 2024	Rafael Lazo FC Pnta Del Este	Development and Promotion and IYFR Public Image	US\$3,200.00	US\$3,000.00	Dec 2024/Mar 2026		12 Members	

After evaluation and deliberation by the Grants Committee, the Grants Chair hereby announces the award:

Chile, Puerto Varas Fleet US\$ 2,850
 Italy, Italy Northwest Fleet US\$ 2,000
 Ivory Coast, Flote Cote D'Ivoire US\$ 5,500
 Philippines, Subic Bay Fleet US\$ 10,200
 Slovenia, Slovenia Fleet US\$ 6,600
 Uruguay, Punta del Este Fleet US\$ 2,850

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees for their outstanding project proposals, which align with the mission of our Fellowship and Rotary.

The Chair also encourages more Fleets to participate in this noble initiative in the future. These grants represent our way of giving back to the membership, utilizing the annual international dues paid by their respective Fleets to support their dedication and continued engagement with our Fellowship.

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VISITING AREA 3

By International Commodore Angie Mesistrano



As I mentioned in my quarterly message, I traveled to Area 3 to visit some fleets and to hand over the Charter to two new fleets. I am sharing some photos of the activities in Asia. On the first day in Taipei I attended a meeting organized by DG Healthy Liou and her group. When we arrived there was no one to be seen.

But suddenly everything changed. The members of the Taiwan Light Up fleet were preparing a surprise.



It was a very entertaining celebration. We enjoyed a barbecue and good music.

Typical lunch in Taipei



We were invited to a lunch with typical Taiwanese food. Exquisite dishes were prepared at that very moment in front of us all. I deeply thank PRIP Gary Huang and his wife Corina for this invitation, they are magnificent hosts.

Meeting of Commodores of the Philippine Fleets



I had the opportunity to share a wonderful dinner with the Commodores of the Philippine fleets. The camaraderie and friendliness of all of them completed a wonderful evening. We enjoyed the evening accompanied by PIC Jun Avecilla, A3C Edmond Aguilar and RC Arturo Supangan.



It was held in the beautiful city of Makati, Metro Manila



Meeting with Commodores of Taiwanese fleets

A pleasant meeting where I met and shared with the Commodores of the Taiwanese fleets and with Region Commodore Marina Chen.





On Sunday 10th November we visited Kaohsiung City with IRC Paul. The Taiwan Unique Seven fleet was participating in Rotary's Family Day. We joined in the celebration and I had the pleasure of sharing the day with Fleet Commadore Js Ho, Fleet Vice Commadore Alan Huang and their families. IRC Paul explained to me how to eat lunch with Kuàizi or chopsticks.



As it couldn't be missed... we went sailing. We enjoyed a serene afternoon sailing on PIC Jun's sailboat. It was very pleasant, after talking about some anecdotes, tasting some typical fresh fruits from the Philippines and watching the sunset, we returned to port.



Meeting at Cubao West Rotary Club



And as all good things go... the last night of my visit to Asia arrived. PIC Jun invited me to the meeting of his Cubao West Rotary Club. Its president was very kind, dedicating special time to my visit. I said goodbye, especially thanking the attention and affection of IRC Paul Yiu, PIC Jun AVECILLA, A3C Edmond Aguilar and RC Arturo Supangan. The next day I began my return home, 25,000 kilometers away from that city.



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SALIDA AL MAR DE LAS FLOTAS DE IBERIA PARA LA COPA AMÉRICA

By Fleet Commodore Rosmarie Cammany

En un sábado de raso azul y con luz de otoño en el Puerto de Barcelona, las tres Flotas de Iberia celebraron un intenso día de actividad vinculada al mar y a la Copa América 2024. Se convirtió en un acto histórico, que inauguraba la recién nominación de Dña. Marian Doménech como Region Commodore, en la que estuvieron presentes el veterano Past Region Comodoro Antonio Serrano y actual Secretario de Ibérica, el Comodoro de Madrid D. Luis Fernando Calvarro, el Comodoro de la Flota del Sureste de España D. Jose M Barberá, la Capitan del Escuadron de Valencia Maria Veiga y la recién Comodora de Barcelona Dña. Rosmarie Cammany, junto a miembros de las diferentes Flotas.

A las 13h. zarpó el velero que nos llevó al campo de regatas. Después de casi dos horas de demora por la falta de viento, éste alcanzo los 15 nudos para iniciar una de las 7 reñidas competiciones entre los dos finalistas: INEOS-Britannia y PRADA-Pirelli Italia. Al final por falta de viento la regata fue anulada. El día transcurrió plácido para disfrutar del mar y del suave oleaje que la falta de viento ofrecía.

Una vez en tierra firme, nos desplazamos a la America's Cup Experience donde un guía nos esperaba para llevarnos por todo el museo y la exposición audio visual de la histórica regata de la Copa América.

La visita en el America's Cup Experience finalizó en la experiencia virtual en 3D de ser tripulante del AC-75.... Una vivencia "mágica" de velocidad y riesgo...

La jornada tuvo su punto de encuentro sosegado en el Restaurante Vraba donde una cena de hora europea nos permitió contemplar la puesta de sol rodeados de las diferentes embarcaciones atracadas en el muelle, y un menú que sirvió de base para una confraternización entrañable. Aunque el día había sido intenso, con 5 horas de navegación, la cena permitió hablar de proyectos e intercambiar banderines entre las Flotas. El principio de una deseada y armónica colaboración.

¡Gracias a todos!





IBERIA FLEET SET SAIL FOR AMERICA'S CUP

On a blue satin Saturday with autumn light in the Port of Barcelona, the three Iberia Fleets celebrated an intense day of activity linked to the sea and the America's Cup 2024. It became a historic act, which inaugurated the newly nominated Ms. Marian Doménech as Commodore Region, in which were present the veteran Past Region Commodore Antonio Serrano and current Secretary of Iberian, the Commodore of Madrid D.Luis Fernando Calvarro, the Commodore of the Fleet of Southeast Spain D. Jose M Barberá, Captain of the Valencia Squadron Maria Veiga and the new Commodore of Barcelona Dña. Rosmarie Cammany, along with members of the different fleets. At 13h. sailed the sailboat that took us to the course. After almost two hours of delay due to the lack of wind, it reached 15 knots to start one of the 7 competitive races between the two finalists: INEOS- Britannia and PRADA-Pirelli Italia.

In the end, due to lack of wind, the race was cancelled. The day passed peacefully to enjoy the sea and the gentle waves that the lack of wind offered.

Once on dry land, we moved to the America's Cup Experience where a guide was waiting for us to take us around the museum and audio visual exhibition of the historic regatta of the Copa América.

The visit to the America's Cup Experience ended in the virtual 3D experience of being a crew member of the AC-75.... A "magical" experience of speed and risk...



The day had its quiet meeting point in the Vraba Restaurant where a dinner of European hour allowed us to contemplate the sunset surrounded by different boats docked on the dock, and a menu that served as a basis for an endearing fraternization. Although the day had been intense, with 5 hours of navigation, the dinner allowed to talk about projects and swapping flags between the fleets. The beginning of a desired and harmonious collaboration.

Thank you all!



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IYFR UKRAINE

By Region Commodore Olha Paliychuk

WAS HELD ON AUG 02-03.2024 IN CITY OF MYKOLAIV

Mykolaiv the town on the South of Ukraine the Black Sea Port and Industrial Center hosted the AGM of the IYFR Ukraine this time on 02-03.2024. Quite a wide range of participants who were representing all four Ukrainian IYFR Fleets and their two Squadrons gathered on the banks of Southern Bug river for their annual session to discuss the situation of nowadays and point out the main goals which eventually can change the things for better taking in mind ongoing war with russia and as result the navigational sailing restrictions caused by coastal waters mining.

But at first, the delegates were hospitably welcomed by the local Maritime Museum where special program was waiting for guests. The supervisors of the event have organized a meeting with the legendary sailing yacht "Ikar", the boat which during hard Soviet times has made a round-the-world voyage in 1989.



Moreover the National Post Office of the Ukraine has issued a special series of stamps, envelops and post cards dedicated to the five year anniversary of the IYFR Ukraine that was celebrated these days and the solemn cancellation of postage stamps was also held in the house of Maritime Museum.

In cause of the substantive AGM session the reports and proposals from the Fleets Commodores and Squadron Captains were heard. All the delegates were united in the decision that in conditions of war it is necessary to continue to support sailing schools of Ukraine that many of them were affected by rocket attacks.



The next informal AGM day was devoted to visiting sailing schools and meeting with young students. And finally in gratitude the children have performed an amazing sailing boat show for their patrons in so limitedly allowed water area.



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100 YEARS OF SAILING IN POLAND

By Fleet Commodore Dieter Ambrosius

Dear president Lubomir Synak and friends of Rotary Club Szczecin, hosting this event. Dear friends of IYFR-Pomerania Fleet and sailors from Poland.

This is your day!

I am deeply honored to address you at your centennial jubilee. Congratulations for hundred years of seamanship, reliability and knowledge how to deal with wind, whether and waves around the globe.

As commodore of the first and only European binational fleet in IYFR and as a German guy, I know that there have been dark years in this centennial dividing us, cutting off all our ropes of partnership and humanity. I do excuse! Rotary brought us together again with the foundation of IYFR Pomerania Fleet in fairness and partnership on the 2nd of Oktober 2015. This we have to keep in the next hundred years.

As sailors - being Iforian or not - we have to stand for free sailing in our Baltic Sea, on rivers and lakes. We have to care for Plastik Free Waters and a healthy environment. It still needs to create awareness and to stop pollution of the sea, of rivers and lakes. We should also stand for a peaceful family of nations. No more dark days for our kids and for us. I am glad to be your guest today.

Thank you..... yours Dieter Ambrosius.



100 YEARS OF SAILING IN POLAND

The man of the day certainly was Maciej KRZEPTOWSKI (b.1938). He was early member of the Students Yacht Club in Szczecin, In 2000-03 skipper of the MARIA in the round-the-world-cruise. Participant of the First Polish Marine Antarctic Expedition 1975-76. The last years he organized three Youth-camps with Ukraine and Polish kids for Pomerania Fleet and RC Szczecin. He likes to share his experience with young students. With the yacht STARY 2015 as skipper he guided the Narvik-Spitzbergen-Camp, where they honored Polish Victims 75 years after the battle of Narvik.



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TOP IYFR MARINER, EVER

By PIC and Chief of Staff Sergio Santi



Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Pino for Rotarians and IYFORIANS, (Honorary Member of the Italy NW Fleet and RC Novi Ligure D2032) is the leading figure of the Italian Armed Forces, known for his most brilliant career. In January he will assume the role of NATO Military Committee President.



He was first of his Naval Academy Class when graduated in 1980; then he attended the US NAVY Flight Schools, qualifying as a fixed wings and helicopters Naval Aviator. After intense operational activity also in the war zones, he returned to the USA where he qualified as a Jet Pilot, the first in the Italian Navy. Has been the first Aircraft Squadron Commander on the Aircraft Carrier Garibaldi and her Captain a few years later.

He later held numerous top positions such as Commander of the Navy SEALs, Commander of the Naval Academy (where he hosted us for an official IYFR visit in 2012), Italian Naval Forces CiC, Chief of the Naval Air Forces Department.

After being the Commander of the Joint Operational Forces, he 2019 he was appointed Chief of Naval Operations and, from 2021 to 2024, Chief of Defense, the highest military position in Italy, assuming the Command of the four Italian Armed Forces.





He is one of the main promoters of the development of the aeronautical capabilities of the Italian Navy, contributing to the introduction and integration of the most advanced aircrafts. During his service, he participated to several international Operations, always demonstrating leadership of the highest level. He played a key role in modernizing the operational capabilities of the Italian Navy and is a top expert in maritime strategy and joint forces operations.

Our Honorary Mariner, admired and appreciated by everybody, has always been committed in enhancing human resources and distinguished for his strategic vision of national defense and security.



MIGLIOR MARINAIO IYFR

L'Ammiraglio Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Pino per noi Rotariani e IYFORIANI, (Socio Onorario della Flotta Italia NW e del RC Novi Ligure D2032) è la figura di spicco delle Forze Armate Italiane, noto per la sua lunga e brillante carriera militare. A gennaio assumerà ufficialmente l'incarico di Presidente del Comitato Militare della NATO.

Uscito dall'Accademia Navale nel 1980, primo del suo Corso, ha poi frequentato le Scuole di volo della US NAVY qualificandosi Pilota di Elicottero. Dopo intensa attività operativa anche in zona di guerra, è tornato negli USA dove si è qualificato Jet Pilot, il primo pilota da caccia della Marina Militare. È stato il primo Comandante del Gruppo Aerei Imbarcati sulla Portaerei Garibaldi che ha poi comandato dal 2002 al 2004.

Ha ricoperto numerosi incarichi operativi come Comandante degli Incursori della Marina e Comandante dell'Accademia Navale, dove ci ha ospitato per una visita ufficiale IYFR nel 2012.



Comandante in Capo della Squadra Navale e successivamente Comandante delle Forze Aeree della Marina Militare, è stato poi Comandante del Comando Operativo Interforze. Nel 2019 è diventato Capo di Stato Maggiore della Marina Militare e dal 2021 al 2024, Capo di Stato Maggiore della Difesa, il massimo incarico militare in Italia, assumendo la guida delle quattro Forze Armate Italiane.

È stato tra i principali promotori dello sviluppo delle capacità aeree della Marina Militare Italiana, contribuendo all'introduzione e all'integrazione dei velivoli più avanzati. Durante il suo servizio, ha partecipato a diverse missioni internazionali, dimostrando una leadership operativa di altissimo livello. Ha avuto un ruolo chiave nell'ammodernamento delle capacità operative della Marina Militare Italiana ed è considerato un esperto in strategia marittima e operazioni interforze.

Il nostro Mariner Onorario, benvenuto ed apprezzato da tutti, si è sempre impegnato nella valorizzazione delle risorse umane e distinto per la visione strategica della difesa e sicurezza nazionale.

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FLOTTE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The zero plastic initiative a step towards a clean and sustainable Aghein Télégraphe

By Fleet Commodore Marthe Rabbiosi

The "Zero Plastic" initiative took place on 28 September 2024 at Aghein Télégraphe, in the sub-prefecture of Brofodoumé, Côte d'Ivoire. Organised by the Côte d'Ivoire Fleet, under the direction of Fleet Commodore Marthe Rabbiosi, in partnership with the Agence Nationale de Gestion des Déchets (ANAGED), this operation aimed to combat plastic pollution, a major problem affecting ecosystems and the quality of life of local populations.

Nearly 200 residents and volunteers got down to work in the morning to clean up the village. The emphasis was on raising community awareness of the dangers of single-use plastics and the need to sort and recycle. Collection points were set up and supervised by the Comité de Gestion de la Salubrité, which was inaugurated during the event.

The support of the Regional Commodore for Africa, PDG Sunny Akuopha, and other partners, such as FACI and the Ministry of Health, was crucial. According to Marthe RABBIOSI and her peers, the 'Zero Plastic' initiative marks a concrete step towards a cleaner environment, with sustainable waste management solutions.

As well as cleaning up, teams informed residents about the importance of reducing plastic use. By the end of the day, a significant amount of waste had been collected, transforming the appearance of the village. The Fleet Commodore highlighted



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ACTIVIDADES DE LA FLOTA CANCUN OCEAN AND SAND

By Area 2 Vice Commodore Alfonso Bolio

El combate de los plásticos y basura en general en nuestras playas y océanos es muy importante. La Flota Cancún Ocean & Sand, eligió la playa de Puerto Morelos para trabajar. Se encuentra aproximadamente a 35 km al sur de la Ciudad de Cancún, México.

Mantener las playas limpias es una oportunidad de que el paisaje se conserve atractivo y que esa basura no llegue al mar causando la muerte de aves y fauna marina. También evitar la generación de microplásticos.

En un día logramos recoger aproximadamente 10 bolsas de basura. Encontramos desde tapas de botellas de cerveza, colillas de cigarro, bolsas de hasta ropa abandonada. Las fellowships de Rotary son una gran oportunidad de hacer crecer la amistad de los rotarios y también poder cooperar con nuestro pequeño granito de arena en la conservación del planeta.





Dentro de nuestras actividades anuales tuvimos la oportunidad de navegar en catamarán en la bahía de Isla Mujeres.

Ella es quizás una de las más bonitas de mundo, con aguas cálidas color turquesa que son parte del Caribe Mexicano. Convivir con el mar nos permite comprender por qué es importante mantener nuestros océanos limpios.

La convivencia sana con nuestros Rotanautas estrecha los lazos de amistad.

Como fellowship también es una oportunidad de transmitir a otros nuestra misión como agrupación y como rotarios. Las reuniones mensuales de nuestra Flota Cancun Ocean & Sand son muy importantes. En ellas se discuten los avances de nuestras actividades y es una magnífica oportunidad de compartir con nuestros compañeros Rotanautas. Este año tuvimos la oportunidad de convivir durante un fin de semana.

Nuestra cena fue muy especial porque pudimos recapitular este año que está llegando a su fin. Fue también ocasión de festejar los cumpleaños y aniversarios de este mes.

La convivencia es lo que fuerza a nuestra fellowship, mientras más integrados estemos, mejores resultados obtendremos en todo lo que emprendamos.

Desde esta tierra mexicana en el caribe queremos desear a todas las flotas del mundo una maravillosa navidad y un mejor 2025.





The fight against plastics and garbage in general on our beaches and oceans is very important. The Cancun Ocean & Sand Fleet chose Puerto Morelos beach to work. It is located approximately 35 km south of the city of Cancun, Mexico.

Keeping the beaches clean is an opportunity to keep the landscape attractive and to prevent this garbage from reaching the sea, causing the death of birds and marine fauna. It also prevents the generation of microplastics.

In one day we managed to collect approximately 10 bags of garbage. We found everything from beer bottle caps, cigarette butts, plastic bags to abandoned clothes.

Rotary fellowships are a great opportunity to grow the friendship of Rotarians and also to be able to cooperate with our small grain of sand in the conservation of the planet.



Among our annual activities, we had the opportunity to sail on a catamaran in the bay of Isla Mujeres.

It is perhaps one of the most beautiful in the world, with warm turquoise waters that are part of the Mexican Caribbean. Living with the sea allows us to understand why it is important to keep our oceans clean.

Healthy coexistence with our IYForians strengthens the bonds of friendship.

As a fellowship, it is also an opportunity to transmit to others our mission as a fellowship and as Rotarians.

The monthly meetings of our Cancun Ocean & Sand Fleet are very important. In them, the progress of our activities is discussed and it is a magnificent opportunity to share with our fellow IYForians.

This year we had the opportunity to spend a weekend together.

Our dinner was very special because we were able to recap this year that is coming to an end. It was also an occasion to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of this month. Coexistence is what strengthens our fellowship, the more integrated we are, the better results we will obtain in everything we undertake.

From this Mexican land in the Caribbean we want to wish all the fleets of the world a wonderful Christmas and a better 2025.



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REUNION DE LA FLOTA PUNTA DEL ESTE

Por: Vicecomodoro Ricardo Aguerre

El 29 de noviembre se realizó en Punta del Este, Uruguay, la tradicional reunión de fin de año de la Flota Punta del Este, reuniendo a sus miembros en un agradable salón frente al mar.

Durante la reunión se mencionaron las actividades futuras a desarrollar, en particular la actividad insignia de la Flota, la Nauticoterapia, que se desarrollará en los meses de enero y febrero, durante el verano del hemisferio sur.

Se informó la presentación de una solicitud para fondos de la agrupación (grants) a fin de desarrollar y potenciar la imagen pública de la Flota.

Hubo un momento especial, el más esperado de toda agrupación: el ingreso de Ricardo Pereira como nuevo socio. Nuestra Flota, una de las más numerosas a nivel mundial, sigue creciendo: contamos con 82 integrantes.



Se festejaron los cumpleaños de los socios nacidos en noviembre y diciembre, siguiendo la tradicional costumbre de brindar con una copa de ron

Contamos con la distinguida presencia de la Comodoro Internacional, Angie Mesistrano, quien compartió detalles de su reciente viaje a Taiwán, con motivo de la fundación de una nueva flota. Su interesante relato reflejó el compromiso global de la IYFR por fomentar la amistad y el intercambio cultural.

Como invitado especial del Vicecomodoro, el C/N Hugo de Barros nos deleitó con anécdotas de su experiencia como comandante del emblemático Velero Escuela Capitán Miranda, perteneciente a la Armada Uruguaya. Sus historias nos transportaron a las emocionantes travesías que reflejan el espíritu náutico de la IYFR.

El evento se coronó con una deliciosa cena: una variedad de entradas, platos principales y exquisitos postres. La combinación de buena comida, vista al mar y la compañía de amigos y colegas hizo de esta reunión una ocasión inolvidable.

PUNTA DEL ESTE FLEET MEETING

By Fleet Vicecommodore Ricardo Aguerre

On November 29, the traditional end-of-year meeting of the Punta del Este Fleet was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, bringing together its members in a pleasant hall facing the sea. During the meeting, future activities to be developed were mentioned, in particular the Fleet's flagship activity, Nauticotherapy, which will take place in the months of January and February, during the southern hemisphere summer.

The application for an IYFR grant was reported. The funds will be used to develop and enhance the public image of the Fleet.

There was a special moment, the most anticipated of any fellowship: the entry of Ricardo Pereira as a new member. Our Fleet, one of the largest worldwide, continues to grow: we have now 82 members.



The birthdays of the members born during November and December were celebrated, following the traditional custom of toasting with a glass of rum.

We had the distinguished presence of the International Commodore, Angie Mesistrano, who shared details of her recent trip to Taiwan, on the occasion of the founding of a new fleet. Her interesting story reflected the global commitment of the IYFR to promote friendship and cultural exchange.

As a special guest of the Vice Commodore, C/N Hugo de Barros delighted us with anecdotes of his experience as commanding officer of the emblematic Tall Ship Captain Miranda, belonging to the Uruguayan Navy. His stories transported us to the exciting voyages that reflect the nautical spirit of the IYFR.

The event ended with a delicious dinner: a variety of starters, main courses and exquisite desserts. The combination of good food, sea view and the company of friends and colleagues made this meeting an unforgettable occasion.

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NEW IYFR MAKATI STARS FLEET

By Regional Secretary Geraldine C. Repollo

The IYFR Makati Stars Fleet was successfully organized through the dedication and leadership of Regional Commodore Arturo "Al" Supangan together with his spouse Rotarian Regielyn Supangan and Regional Secretary Geraldine Repollo who was also appointed as the Fleet's Secretary. Together, they worked diligently to gather like-minded Rotarians from Rotary International District 3830, with the support and leadership of Past District Governor Mildred Vitangcol, who was appointed as the Fleet Commodore. The fleet Bridge was completed with the support of Rotarian Pinky Mission who was appointed as Vice Commodore, Rotarian Charito San Pedro Luna, appointed Rear Commodore and Rotarian Maggie Chavez as Treasurer. Their efforts culminated in the formation of a vibrant fleet composed of 22 charter members, all committed to upholding the ideals of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR).



The Fleet's Charter Presentation and Induction of Officers was held on November 12, 2024, at the Aloha Hotel, Manila, in a highly anticipated event that celebrated camaraderie, service, and fellowship. The ceremony was graced by prominent leaders of the IYFR, including International Commodore Angelica Mesistrano from Argentina and International Rear Commodore Paul Yiu from Taiwan. Their presence underscored the global significance of this milestone for the IYFR Makati Stars Fleet.

The event was highlighted by the induction of the Fleet Bridge, led by IC Angelica Mesistrano, and the ceremonial donning of epaulets by the International and Regional officers, symbolizing the start of the Fleet's journey. A heartfelt signing of the Charter Documents by IC Mesistrano and FC Vitangcol formally marked the Fleet's establishment, followed by the turnover of Bell and Gavel, symbolizing leadership, and governance.



The inspirational message from IC Mesistrano encouraged the Makati Stars Fleet to become a beacon of fellowship and service in District 3830 and beyond. This event also signifies District 3830's active participation in IYFR initiatives, paving the way for further collaboration and growth within the fellowship.

The evening concluded with a spirit of optimism, as members looked forward to their journey together as part of the global IYFR community.



IYFR Makati Stars Fleet Officers and Members with IC Angelica Mesistrano, IRC Paul Yiu, MRC Al Supagan, Area 3 Commodore Edmond Aguilar, and Past IC Jun Avecilla



FC Mildred Vitangcol



FVC Pinky Mission



FRC Charito Luna



FS Geraldine Repollo



FT Maggie Chavez



Officers of the various fleets in the Philippines were guests of the event.

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TAIWAN LIGHT UP FLEET FOUNDATION



The chartering of the new Taiwan Light Up fleet took place in Taipei on November 8. This new fleet began its journey with 48 mariners.



The founding Commodore, DG Healthy, organized a meeting and a magnificent ceremony. The ceremony was attended by International Commodore Angie Mesistrano, International Rear Commodore Paul Yiu, Past International Commodore Jun Avecilla, Past Rotary International President Gary Huang, Area 3 Commodore Edmond Aguilar, Region Commodore Marina Chen and several Commodores and Past Commodores from other fleets.



The evening was held in an atmosphere of camaraderie and joy. We toasted the long life of this new fleet and the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians.



We also had very pleasant music and songs by the new mariners led by DG Healthy.



After an exquisite dinner and having listened to inspiring messages given by the illustrious visitors, we took the photos that will remind us of this very special evening. Here we share the images of a FUN FUN FUN night.



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International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians



2024 AREA3 AGM YILAN TAIWAN



2024 IYFR Area 3 AGM Held on December 01 & 02 at Yilan county, Taiwan
Participator from Area 3: Japan 12 members lead by RC Miyaa; Pahilipines 30 members lead by RC Al; Taiwan 36 members lead by RC Marina.



Group Picture after General Meeting December 01, 2024



12/1 Visit Light Up Rotary Story Gallery for a Decade for Brilliance.



TAIWAN Region

Philippines Region



JAPAN Region

Lead 3 groups visit Gallery in 3 language Guides.



Rotary Year Logo



Prepare for Lunch at the Gallery restaurant



Curse at the Danshui River, enjoy sunset along with friendship.



Farewell, we all have FUN FUN FUN

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PLANNING A NEW REGATTA IN AREA 3

By Region Commodore Marina Chen



Recently, it has made an appointment with Tokyo FLEET and PIC Jun Avecilla in the Philippines to host the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Cup regatta in turn every year. It hopes to inject more Fun, Fun, Fun element into the IYFR regatta.



Region Commodore Marina also lets the IYFR flag fly at the highest peak in Taiwan.

He says...welcome IYFR friends from all over the world to come to Taiwan and have fun together.

Taiwan Region Commodore Marina currently operates its own Marina and Yacht Club in Taipei.

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DONATION OF ANCHOR FLOATS

Taiwan Unique Seven Fleet

By International Rear Commodore Paul Yiu

Dapeng Bay, With a yacht marina, a gyrocopter club and other leisure facilities, in the future Dapeng Bay will transform into a world class seaside leisure and vacation destination for visitors from neighboring Asian countries.



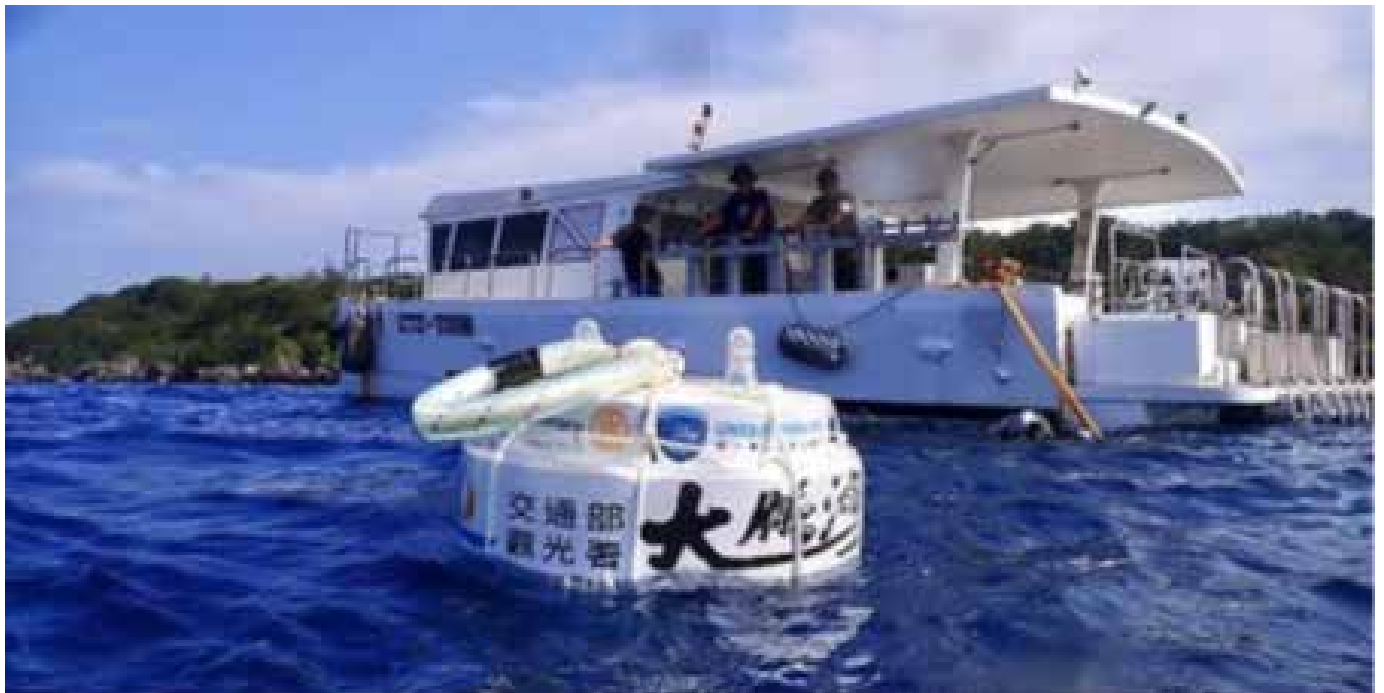
Mooring float friendly facilities
Anchor floats are set up at the dive sites on the island to provide boats with anchor fixation on the sea surface to avoid damage to coral reefs.



In recent years, the coral ecology has been threatened, and marine resources have become more and more depleted.



The anchor floats set up in the Xiaoliuqiu offshore are very friendly and practical, allowing yachts to play in the water offshore without having to anchor, so there is no need to worry about damaging the coral reef when anchoring; The more yachts and diving boats are used, the more we hope to be able to contribute to the beautiful ocean.



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¡Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*We look forward to your submissions of
articles, comments, photos and anecdotes.*

*It will be a pleasure to meet again
on March 2025!*


ROTA FLOAT