

Report on Rotary International Conference Held in Osaka, Japan May 22 – 26, 2004

We arrived in Osaka on Friday May 21st, and after checking into our hotel, went straight to the Conference Centre to register. The Conference Centre is situated next to the Righa Royal Hotel.



On Saturday May 22nd, we had booked for the “Kyoto Day” which had been organized by the Rotary Club of Kyoto. We were firstly taken to the Heian-jingu Shrine for a walk around their extensive gardens, and then enjoyed a Tea Ceremony, followed by a dinner & concert in the Exhibition Hall. It was an excellent day, enjoyed by at 1000 Rotarians, and we were provided with box lunches & dinners



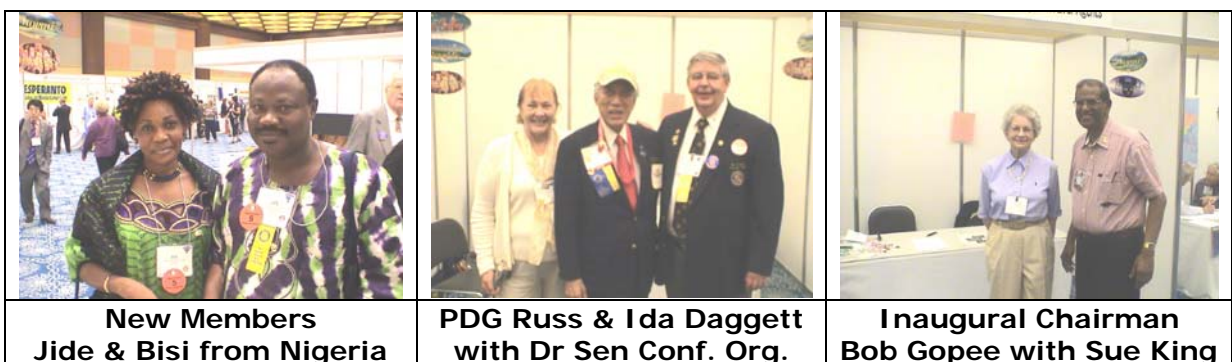
On Sunday May 23rd, we attended the Opening Ceremony which was held in the Dome – a covered baseball stadium – The place was completely full with some 46,000 Rotarians and partners attending. It was a very impressive sight with the opening by President Jonathon B. Majiyagbe. I always enjoy the Flag Ceremony, as it is quite inspiring to see the flags of the many

nations represented by Rotary International. There was also some good entertainment.

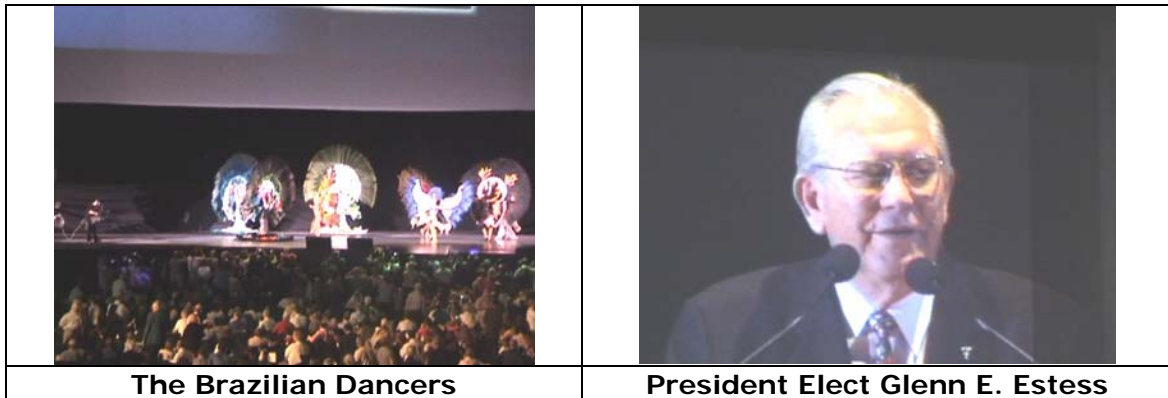


Monday 24th. and Tuesday 25th, were Plenary Sessions held at the Dome, which we did not attend, as we felt that we should be at the Fellowship of Travel Agents Booth. I feel that it was unfortunate that it wasn't possible to have everything under one roof, as was the case in Brisbane. The Fellowship Booths were in a number of different rooms and the House of Friendship on another floor of the Righa Royal Hotel, whereas the Plenary Sessions were at the Dome, some 30 minutes by bus from the Righa Royal. This made it impossible to move easily from one to the other.

However we managed to man the booth with PDG Russ & Ida, Brian & Sue King, Rosslyn Callao, and Bob Gopee helping out. It was great that we were able to sign up some 11 new members, making the Fellowship membership approaching the 100 mark from 34 countries.



On Wednesday May 26th. we attended the final Plenary Session, as there was almost no action at the Fellowship Booth Area. We heard from Ed Futa, our General Secretary, Gennaro Cardinale, RI Treasurer, who told us of the need to increase member per capita. The Keynote Address was from Sadako Ogato, a former Rotary Scholar. This was followed by the introduction of Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer who is President Nominee for 2005-2006. The final address was from President Elect Glenn E Estess Sr. Entertainment was provide by some Brazilian Dancers.



The Closing Ceremony was held on the Wednesday evening at the Dome, and in contrast to the Opening Ceremony was attended only by about 7-8000 Rotarians & Partners. However, it was an enjoyable evening, with President Jonathan Majiyagbe calling it to order, and also making presentations to the Convention Organizing Committee. The entertainment was excellent, with a large orchestra, some excellent singers, and Japanese flute player.



The Finale was a rousing "Auld Lang Sine" sang in both Japanese and English All in all it was a well rounded conference, and I am sure was enjoyed by all, and those attending certainly learn more about the Rotary Service. It is an inspiration to attend a R.I. World Conference, and to see and hear what Rotary is doing on a world scale.



**Presentation to Dr Sen, Chairman of
the Organising Committee**



**A Rousing Finale
Auld Lang Sine!**

Brian W King
June 19th, 2004