2016 ITHF Post Convention Taiwan Tour 2-13 June 2016

By: Aircon

Team Members: PDG. Betty Screpnek (D5370), Rtn. Eunice Maris (D5370), Rtn. Donna Ducommun (D5370), RC. Jacqueline Hobal (D5370), PDG. Marjorie Cole (D5340), Rtn. Melvina Lube (D6440), Rtn. Kimberly Carroll (D6930), PDG. Gilbert Brown (D5810), Mrs. Linda Brown (D5810)

Tour Leader: PDG. Medicare & Linda

Tour Guide: CP Aircon, Rtn. Vivian

Organized by: Rtn. Amy

Day 1: June 2nd arrive at Taiwan Tao Yuan Airport (during a torrential downpour which only added to the adventure!)

Day 2: Jun 3rd visit Sanhsia and Yingge

Day 3: June 4th, visit National Palace Museum by high speed rail to Kaohsiung, Kao-Hsiung Harbor Tour Kao-Hsiung Harbor Tour

Day 4: June 5th, tour to Lotus Lake, Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Center, Taijiang National Park Water Bus Mangrove Preserve
Day 5: June 6th, tour to Salt Museum, Anping Fort Tree House, attend RC of Tainan Club Meeting

Day 6: June 7th, tour to Chimei Museum, bus trip to Sun Moon Lake

Day 7: June 8th, boat cruise at Sun Moon Lake, tea making experience, attend RC of Sun Moon Lake Club Meeting.
Day 8: June 9th, visit Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village, Taichung Metropolitan Opera House, dinner with local ITHF members.

Day 9: June 10th, visit Miaoli Cultural Park

Day 10: June 11th, visit to Yehliu Geopark, attend RC of Yong Fu informal meeting and visit to 

Day 12: June 13th, wrap up, leave for home sweet home.

*Editor’s note:* Xièxiè to everyone who made our trip to Taiwan such a wonderful experience; Rotarian hospitality is second to none and every day, every visit, everyone we met was spectacular. You touched our hearts and left wonderful memories on our souls. I, for one, cannot wait to go back! Wǒ ai nǐ!
**Japan/Korea Pre-trip Report**  
Carey & Donna Beamesderfer

An in-depth report on the Japan/Korea was submitted by Carey and Donna...please enjoy!

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**Quebec City**  
Ellen Haggerty

I've always wanted to go to Canada's Quebec City which I heard was a lovely Old World Walled City. My first impulse was to research ITHF listings. There were no listings so I used the Rotary Club Locator app on my iPhone to email the Quebec Rotary Club, established in 1919 and located for breakfast at the famed, historic 5 star Château de Frontenac Hotel perched high up on the hill.

As Chair of Rotarians for Hearing RAG (Rotarian Action Group) I asked if they would like me to speak at their Rotary Club meeting about the RAG. Since it was an early morning meeting, to guarantee my coming, would they have a Rotarian who would agree to host me for a few nights to see their beautiful city? I lucked out as Rotarian Karen Hilchey was not only a Rotarian, but a certified Nova Scotian born Quebec City Tourist guide who spoke fluent English as well as French with a fellow Quebec City Tourist guide friend, Francine, whose family came over from Normandy in 1661. She wanted to practice her English Guide skills with me while Karen was working. Both had access and insights into places the average tourist does not get a chance to see

Karen was so enthralled with my many ITHF adventures in Brazil, Italy, Taiwan, Australia and Thailand that she was excitedly signed up for a 3-year membership to ITHF. The icing on the cake for a wonderful visit was Karen's invitation to come back as her ITHF Guest during Quebec City's Winter Carnival! Of course, Karen is on the Quebec City Winter Carnival Committee! I'm looking forward it my next ITHF adventure!
ITHF Hosts George and Dionne Vlk in the Philippines
Ellen Haggerty from Pleasant Valley NY

Charley, the Filipino Caribou that works the land

Ever read those stories about Americans who live the good life by retiring to a warm, tropical country like the Philippines where a modest retirement income can go further. ITHF hosts, George and Dionne Vlk hosted me in their Northern Luzon town and country home where Dionne has plenty of family since she is the oldest in a family of 9 children. George, who grew up in Queens, New York and traveled the world for business is very active with Dionne and her family planning a fish, rice and vegetables farm. They shared their dreams of building a new home with an in ground pool and maybe even a restaurant. George and Dionne are very active in their Ilagan Rotary Club.

We met for the first time at the 2016 Seoul Rotary International Convention where they helped me staff the Rotarians for Hearing Rotarian Action Booth. When I visited George and Dionne, I was welcomed by the Santiago and Tuguegarao Rotarians who were eager to hear about how Rotarians could help children and adults with hearing loss reach their potential in their communities.
ITHF Connection at RICON
Madu Bishnu
VP - ITHF (Eastern India & Bangladesh)

I made an ITHF Connection with ITHF member Carolyn Khoury from Johannesburg, South Africa during RICON in Seoul in May 2016. Here is the brief write up on the Connection

Carolyn and I are members of ITHF and we stayed at Hotel Millennium during the RICON in Seoul. We toured the Folk village and we had a lovely time enjoying local Korean food. It was a wonderful Connection we had.

Thank you for publishing in the Connection newsletter.

An Invitation from Australia
Kate McKenzie

One of my great memories of the 2014 Sydney Convention is attending the ITHF Breakfast. I feel that I have not yet made the most of my ITHF membership, however, as we didn't really have space for hosting in our small apartment, and couldn't afford to travel much ourselves. After 7.5 years in Sydney my family and I recently returned home to Western Australia. The good news is we have more space and a spare room. We have a young son who is now 14 months old and live in a suburb of Perth called Mt Pleasant. It really is a pleasant place, close to the river and only 30 mins by public transport from the CBD. If you have visited Australia already, you don't really know it until you visit Western Australia. Spring (Sept-Nov) is the best time to come when we have spectacular wildflowers both in the centre of the city at Kings Park and out in the regions and country areas. Our national parks are amazing and we have delicious food and wine. I am now a member of the Rotary E-Club of Western Australia and if you are planning to visit you are welcome to join our regular video conferences ahead of time so you can get to know us. Look forward to hearing from you. Kate
From the ITHF Web Guru
Roger Siddle
WHAT TO DO IF GOOGLE SAYS THAT WWW.ITHF.ORG IS OFF-LINE

First a little technical background - skip the first paragraph or two if you wish. The human-readable address of the ITHF website is: www.ithf.org which never changes. When you type this into your web browser it asks the global domain name service (DNS) for the actual internet (IP) address of the site. The DNS service passes the address back to your browser so it can access the site. If we move to a new server we always register the new address with the domain name service.

The current IP address of www.ithf.org is: 91.121.110.19 and you can type this directly into your browser as: http://91.121.110.19 and your browser will access the site without checking the DNS service. The only problem you may encounter is that our Thawte security certificate validates the name of the site (www.ithf.org), not the IP address. If you access https://91.121.110.19 it will not be validated and will show as 'Untrusted.' Google, Bing, Yahoo and all the other search engines check our site along with millions of others all the time. They keep a note of anything interesting that they come across—for example if I take the site off line for a couple of hours they record the message I put up.

If you do a Google search on the QUERY: 'Travel Hosting Rotarian Fellowship' you will get a list of relevant links. At the top is www.ithf.org - which you can click on to go directly to our site. If you do a Google search for the ADDRESS: 'www.ithf.org' what do you expect to get? Telephone enquiries will tell you that Fred Brown's phone number is 123-456-789 but what would it say if you asked for the number of the number: 123-456-789? It doesn't make sense.

Most times Google will do what you expect and give you a link to the address you told it, but on occasion it will throw up old and out of date information—presumably it thinks that is more interesting or relevant? Or maybe it just hasn't got round to deleting the old data from whatever subset of data it is using. If Google tells you we are 'Offline for maintenance' please browse http://91.121.110.19 to find out the current situation.

If you’re having issues with your information on the ITHF website or think your membership has not been updated, please contact roger.siddle@gmail.com directly; he’s the only one who can resolve these issues.

Roger Siddle
Rotary Club of Kendal - RID 1190
ITHF Website Manager
See you in Atlanta!

http://www.rotaryconvention2017.org/