# NEWS RELEASE

Rotary clubs in Korea improve communities at home and abroad

*From protecting the environment to eradicating a paralyzing disease, Korea’s Rotary clubs are addressing humanitarian challenges facing the world today*

**GOYANG CITY, Korea (XX May 2016)** – As Rotary members gather from 160 countries in Korea (28 May – 1 June) for the humanitarian service organization’s annual convention, they will enjoy the hospitality of a host country where Rotary clubs have helped improve lives and bring positive, lasting change for 88 years.

Seoul is home to the first Rotary club established in Korea, chartered in 1927. Today, Korea is the fourth largest Rotary club country with 1,625 clubs and 64,149 members who support an array of local and international service initiatives, including:

* Helping infants and toddlers with critical illnesses or chronic conditions in partnership with Seoul National University Children’s Hospital;
* Teaming up with environmental experts and the government of Mongolia to help prevent the adverse health effects caused by the yellow wind dust storms from the Gobi desert;
* Bridging cultures among recent immigrants by opening a children’s library near KINTEX where convention participants will donate illustrated children’s books in multiple languages.
* Providing educational opportunities for nearly 500 children with autism and other intellectual and emotional challenges in partnership with Andong Youngmyung Special Education School.
* Making global health history by supporting Rotary’s top philanthropic goal of eradicating [polio](http://www.endpolio.org/). Since 1985, Rotary has contributed more than KRW 1.4 trillion (US$1.5 billion) and countless volunteer hours toward ending the paralyzing but vaccine preventable disease, with Korean Rotary clubs donating more than KRW 146 million (US$14.6 million).

**About Rotary**

[Rotary](http://www.rotary.org/) brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. To access broadcast quality video footage and still photos go to: [The Newsmarket](http://rotary.thenewsmarket.com/).

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