



Rotary District 7690, Piedmont North Carolina USA
Wes Patterson, District Governor 2010-2011
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To: Club and District Leaders

About: Rotary Friendship Exchange opportunities - District 3500 – Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Maoli, Taiwan
An Invitation.

Two years ago our District had a Group Study Exchange with District 3500 in Taiwan. We have proposed to them that we do a Friendship Exchange, similar to the one that we did with District 3460 – Taichung, Taiwan, a few years ago. We met with Rotarian Archi (Jason Hsu) from District 3500 at the Rotary Convention in Montreal. Rotarian Archi has been a generous host to both the Group Study Exchange team and to the Friendship Exchange Team that went to District 3460. His niece was one of the participants in the GSE delegation that visited us from District 3500 in 2008.

Rotarian Archi has proposed the exchange to his district and has given us the following response:

I was very pleased and grateful to be able to speak with you during the RI Convention in Montreal. After our discussion, I informed D-3500 Governor Surgeon and DGE Tony who agreed on this possible Rotary Friendship Exchange opportunity with your district D-7690. At this moment, we are still in the process of looking for our RFE members. We most certainly welcome your RFE team's arrival to D-3500 as DG Surgeon has already announced this wonderful news to our district.

The timing of the exchange is proposed as follows:

- District 7690 would plan to send a team of approximately four couples to District 3500 during the fall of 2011 for a two-week exchange.
- District 7690 would plan to receive and host a team of approximately four couples from District 3500 during the spring of 2012.

.A Rotary Friendship Exchange is a program that is based on the Group Study Exchange model:

- It provides an opportunity to visit another country and stay in the homes of Rotarian hosts,
- It provides the opportunity to reciprocate when that country sends a team to visit our District.

It differs from the Group Study Exchange model in the following ways:

- Rotary Friendship Exchange is not funded by The Rotary Foundation.
- Rotarians are eligible to participate in Rotary Friendship Exchanges.
- Rotarians assume the cost of transportation and personal expenses.
- The duration of the visit is negotiated during the planning phase of the program.
- The schedule can be less rigid and structured than is the case with GSE.

The Rotary Friendship Exchange manual provides full details of the experience. We have included a copy on the District 7690 website. (<http://www.rotary7690.org/7690-Rotary-Friendship-Exchange.shtm>.)

We're in the beginning stages of putting this exchange together and would like to know who might be interested in being considered. Please e-mail us at the either of the addresses below by **September 30** if you'd like to explore this opportunity further so we can put you on the list to receive more information as it becomes available. Thanks.

Phil & Karen Morris

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