

Five questions about Intercountry Committees

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Intercountry Committees (ICCs)¹ are one of Rotary's many paths to fostering peace and goodwill among nations. Here we answer your questions on ICC basics.

1. What are ICCs?

According to the [Manual of Procedure](#),² Intercountry Committees (ICCs) in Rotary are committees of "Rotarians, Rotary clubs, or districts formulated by and with the approval of governors concerned, to encourage contacts between clubs and Rotarians in two or more countries, thus developing understanding and promoting fellowship among the peoples of different nations." ICCs facilitate home visits between Rotarians of two countries and strengthen friendships and Rotary service that can lead to international projects that cut across club, district, and national borders.

2. What types of activities can an ICC do?

Throughout the Rotary world, ICCs have traditionally served as a catalyst for World Community Service and other international service activities through a variety of activities. Typical ICC projects include:

- a. Rotary Youth Exchanges (coordinated with district Youth Exchange programs) coupled with home hospitality
- b. Professional training courses that help broaden the horizons of students in the project country while fostering improved socioeconomic relations between countries
- c. Rotary Friendship Exchanges, which often take place during holidays and Rotary International conventions

3. How are ICCs formed?

First, two Rotary countries must decide to improve international relations and to increase understanding. Then contacts begin at the club-to-club level. As contacts between the two participating countries grow, local Rotarians in both countries recommend forming an ICC, working with district governors in both countries.

4. How can I get involved?

- a. Talk with fellow Rotarians at your next Rotary club meeting about forming an ICC.
- b. Explore existing ties your club or district may already have with clubs or districts in foreign countries through World Community Service and other international projects.

¹ **Intercountry Committee** — Committee of Rotarians, Rotary clubs, or districts, formulated by or with the approval of governors concerned, to encourage contacts between clubs and Rotarians in two or more countries, thus developing understanding between and promoting fellowship among the peoples of different nations.

² **Intercountry Committees**

In order to encourage contacts between Rotarians and clubs in two or more countries and to promote fellowship and intercultural understanding among the peoples of different nations, Rotarians, Rotary clubs, or districts are urged to establish intercountry committees, created by or with the approval of their governors.

The purpose of intercountry committees is twofold:

- 1) To increase international understanding and goodwill by encouraging Rotarians to visit each other's countries and homes
- 2) To strengthen friendships by encouraging clubs and districts to link with clubs and districts in other countries by jointly participating in WCS or other international projects (RCP 36.030.)

Because the organization and functioning of such committees are the independent activities of Rotary clubs and districts, intercountry committees shall function without financial support from RI. However, committees undertaking ongoing service activities, such as a WCS project, which extend more than one year in length should comply with RI's policy for "Multidistrict Service Activities" (see chapter 2). (RCP 36.030.2.)

- c. Ask your district's Youth Exchange officer about ways to get involved in ICCs through Rotary Youth Exchange.

5.) Where can I find additional information?

Rotary's ICC brochure (cf. Appendix B) provides details about ICCs, their history and function, and how to get involved. It also includes numerous examples of activities that have been carried out worldwide.