

# **PRESS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gary D. Permenter  
Tel: +1 (415) 670-9160  
Email: [gary.permenter@gmail.com](mailto:gary.permenter@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2008

---

## ***Rotaract's Koryo Mission 1 Successful!***

After a lot of planning, fundraising, and coordination, \$4,000.00 in medicine aid was contributed by the Rotaract Club of Chicago Far North to our official project partner and DPRK sponsor, Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD) to assist victims from the flood of 2007 as well as other needy women and children. This mission has been a relationship-building mission in support for the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and Pyongyang Orphanage through the sponsorship of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD). This is one of two missions that are being carried out this year. The hospital severely lacks many essential medicines including penicillin, which is one of the several different types of medicines included in the contribution. The donated medication will help offset the shortage in medicine aid needed by DPR Korean flood victims that are still suffering from a myriad of diseases from last summer's floods.

A total of 14 boxes of medication was transported to the DPR Korean Embassy in Beijing, China and handed over to our DPR Korean project partners, KFPD, by Gary Permenter, Koryo Project Director who has lead the mission. This is an important first step in developing a long-term working relationship with the DPR Koreans which will hopefully give us the ability to help more people in the long term, says Permenter. Much of this project has had to be managed differently due to unique dynamics that exist often resulting in spontaneous changes throughout its course but was handled appropriately with the combined efforts of many knowledgeable and experienced people to keep in on track and headed in the right direction. Unlike other projects, Koryo requires a lot of smaller steps in order to ultimately reach the project recipients. The

mission at the DPRK embassy was a very important integral step in demonstrating to our DPR Korean project partner that we are able to deliver and are committed to working with them for the long-term.

Permenter has been able to learn a lot from his first direct in-person dealings with the DPR Koreans. This mission was very valuable as it has given him the opportunity to learn how to do things better for the next mission. Permenter's direct forward genuine approach, persistence, patience, compassion in addition to his ability to convince the right DPR Korean officials of his project's worthiness is what allowed this mission to be successfully accomplished. It is a wonderful feeling to see all of this hard work finally materialize and be able to introduce himself in-person and discuss the details of his project directly with the DPR Koreans that he will be working with, and know that people will be getting the medical care that they need.

This mission was able to happen with the full generous support of Korea Business Consultants, a proud sponsor of Koryo, and Rotarian Randal Eastman, both experts on the DPRK. The Rotaract Club of Chicago Far North's executive board, Gary Permenter, and Tony Guo, thank all of its sponsors, partners, alliance Rotaract Clubs, Rotary Club of Chicago Far North, and Rotary Club of Chicago, and donors who have given so much support to this project to make it a reality. A very special thank you to Roger Barrett and Carole Yang at Korea Business Consultants who share the same passion for this important cause through their heartfelt efforts in coordinating the logistics and who have made this project that much more extraordinary.

The second mission of this project will occur later this year in Pyongyang, DPRK, and will include follow-up on the first mission, a second disbursement of medicine of approximately \$6,000 USD, and a water heater and hand-made quilts to be given to the Pyongyang Orphanage. Preparations for the Koryo Mission 2 are now under way.

-End-