RESOLUTION 19R-29

To request the Trustees to consider removing the hydrogeological survey requirement for global grants

Proposer(s): District 1830, Germany
           District 1980, Switzerland

Endorsed by: District 1830 through a ballot-by-mail, 1 March 2019
             District 1980 through an annual district conference, Baden, Switzerland, 14 June 2019

WHEREAS, Rotary is an international organization that aims to contribute to the enhancement of prosperity and to the promotion of peace in the world, and

WHEREAS, international Rotary aid projects funded by The Rotary Foundation through global grant projects are crucial to this goal, and

WHEREAS, global grant projects greatly promote national and international collaboration among Rotary clubs, districts, and with RI, and

WHEREAS, it must therefore be the goal to vigorously promote the application and implementation of global grant projects. This implies that the requirements for applying for and executing global grant projects must be adapted to actual needs and dispense with claims that result in unreasonable effort and expense

IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary International consider requesting the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation to consider removing the requirement for a hydrogeological survey on global grants that will access groundwater, in order to improve the feasibility of global grant water projects.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

In the “Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation District Grants and Global Grants” (updated June 2018), hydrogeological surveys must be completed as part of the community assessment for global grant projects that will access groundwater. The results of these investigations must therefore already be submitted when the application is submitted.

Rotarian aid projects dedicated to WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) are among most common recipients of grant monies from The Rotary Foundation. The project areas are usually located in the poorest developing countries of the
world. Hydrogeological documents (for example hydrogeological maps) are generally not available or, if available, not relevant to the upcoming task. In order to meet the above requirement, therefore, the applicant would need to carry out its own hydrogeological investigations. For such investigations, however, several test drillings are required. The costs of these far exceed the costs of a drinking water well. In addition, further investigations must be added, which are very time-consuming and can significantly increase the costs. Therefore, this requirement for hydrogeological investigations in real global grant projects cannot be met as a rule. Experienced local professionals can usually identify sites that are reasonably likely to provide groundwater through field observations and their on-site experience. However, the results of such observations and experiences are not suitable to be presented in a report. Removing the aforementioned requirement for hydrogeological investigations would greatly increase the motivation of clubs to plan and implement global grant water projects and avoid unreasonable costs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on The Rotary Foundation. The hydrogeological survey is an important tool to determine if there is a sufficient and suitable water supply for drinking, furthermore, the expense for the survey can be added to the grant and will be reimbursed.