



## 國際扶輪社長開幕式演講

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2021 年國際年會

哲學家 Jean-Paul Sartre 曾經說過，也許有個美好的時刻，但是這是我們的時刻，我們的時刻當中有很多的痛苦和變化，但是變化同時也帶來了機遇，這次年會也是如此。

疫情繼續給太多人帶來痛苦，甚至我們失去了一些對我們來說很重要的人，我們必須繼續紀念那些逝去的人並且做我們能做的一切，讓這些痛苦盡可能盡快的結束。扶輪社員仍然繼續起到自己的作用，幫助世界各地因應疫情。而我們在全球各地都站起來推動接種疫苗的活動，這樣能讓疫情早日結束。我要感謝所有的扶輪社員，因為你們做了那麼多，幫助我們因應這困難的時期。沒有什麼能填補我們的失落，但是我們也不能忽視疫情迫使我們做出的積極的改變。

今年對扶輪來說是非常重要的一年，因為非洲被宣布無野生小兒麻痺病毒，基於這個令人樂觀的消息，我們繼續堅持對根除小兒麻痺的承諾。(我們完全有理由保持樂觀，在五月初，我們在全球各地只有兩個野生小兒麻痺病毒病例。)並且還有欣喜的好消息，就是我們有新的焦點領域 -- 保護環境將於 7 月 1 日開始，同時我們也把扶青社升級到一個新的層面，讓他們在扶輪的世界裡有前所未有的可見性，越來越多的地區和地帶都跟隨我們的腳步。2 個大陸--非洲和澳洲--以及許多國家和社都在慶祝他們加入扶輪的百週年紀念。還有最重要的是，哪怕是在疫情當中每一位扶輪社員都擁抱我們周圍的變化，並且透過科技以及隨著我們對相互照顧的承諾，建立了更密切的關係。

在我們思考變化的時候我們一定要想到機會，對扶輪社來說這意味著我們要策略性思考並且考慮我們如何吸取過去幾年學到的經驗。

我們當中有些人可能會覺得在疫情結束之後我們就會回到過去吧，但是這是不可能的，世界仍然在變化，我們需要隨著世界而變化，世界不會因為我們而停滯不前。

我們都看到虛擬會議是多麼有價值，國際會議現在已經習以為常了，令人興奮的新的服務專案可以在世界各地可以即時的計劃和執行，我們可以前所未有的方式合作協力。雖然在這樣的環境當中募款有所挑戰，但是科技可以幫我們加強募款，因為現在人們可以看到他們所捐的金錢是如何被使用。這種即時的互動會帶來新的想法和新的解決問題的辦法。

虛擬的扶輪社會議同時也對年輕人很有吸引力。哪怕是在疫情散播於全世界之前，我也提到了扶輪接受和適應周圍的變化對我們來說多麼重要。變化也意味著要改變，我們現在的實體會議要調整為更加能夠吸引我們所需要吸引類別的人的會議，讓我們具有更多的關聯性。對於很多年輕人來說，傳統的、坐下來吃飯的扶輪社例會不符合他們的生活風格，這不是他們所習慣的，這也沒有辦法配合他們繁忙的社交日程。

時間和空間現在大量縮減了。過去講者站在講台上，現在取而代之的是每個人的臉都在我們的面前。我們之間可以直接的相互交流，面對面，這幫助我們超越文化的界線。

當然，我們很想念能夠擁抱他人、能在喝咖啡的時候隨意的交流、以及想念我們的實體會議。這些東西都非常重要並且在適合的時候都會回復。但是我們也越來越能更加適應虛擬世界中隨意的部分，將其轉變為思考和規劃的機會。

我們需要把過去一年裡學到的好的東西應用起來讓我們成為更現代化的組織。我們需要使用這個機會歡迎年輕的男性和女性以及更多元化的組織加入我們。這就是我們如何增加我們的影響力的觸及範圍。科技將繼續演進，我們的舒適感也會增長。科技將會變得更加容易使用、更令人興奮，並且更有參與感，我們必須跟上科技。我們將會越來越擅長將虛擬世界和現實世界合併在一起。

我強力建議大家善用本次年會的科技，獲得具有參與感的學習的體驗，並且享受這樣快樂的時光。請大家去分組會議並且使用聊天室，而且要透過年會建立連結，就像大家在現場會議去友誼之家一樣，所以請大家享受愉快的時光。



## RI PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS

Holger Knaack  
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Philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre once said, “Perhaps there are more beautiful times, but this is ours.” This time is ours — and our time has been filled with sorrow and change. But with change also comes opportunity, and this convention is no exception.

The pandemic continues to bring great devastation and, for far too many, a very sad ending for people important to us. We must continue to honor those who have passed and do whatever we can to bring this devastation to an end as soon as possible. Rotarians continue to do their role to help the world cope with the pandemic — and we are stepping up across the globe with vaccination campaigns that can help bring it to an end. I want to thank all the Rotarians who have done so much to help us cope with these difficult times. Nothing can override our sense of loss, but we cannot ignore the ways the pandemic has forced us to make positive change.

This has been an important year in Rotary: From Africa being declared wild polio-free and building on that optimistic news by staying focused on our commitment to end polio. (And we have every reason to be optimistic. Until early May, there were just two cases of wild poliovirus worldwide.) To looking forward to the exciting news about our new area of focus on the environment. (That will begin on July 1st.) And to taking Rotaract to a new level this year, with higher visibility in the Rotary world than ever before, and more districts and zones following our lead. To two continents — Africa and Australia — as well as many countries and clubs, celebrating their centennials. And, most of all, even amid the pandemic, to every Rotarian embracing the change around us and forming a new closeness through our use of technology and our commitment to mutual care.

Whenever we think of change, we must think about opportunities. For Rotary clubs, this means thinking strategically and considering how we can build on the experiences of the past year.

Some of us may think that we can just return to business as usual once this pandemic is over, but that's impossible. The world is changing and we must change with it. The world will not stand still for us.

We have all seen just how valuable virtual meetings can be. International meetings are now routine. Exciting new service projects can be planned and executed in real

time across the world, and we can collaborate together like never before. While fundraising in this environment has been challenging, it too can be enhanced with the use of technology, as people can see now their donations in action. All of this immediate interaction is leading to new ideas and problem-solving.

Virtual club meetings are also appealing to younger people. Even before COVID-19 began to spread rapidly around the world, I spoke about the importance of Rotary adapting to the changes around us. And change also means adapting our in-person meetings to be more appealing to the types of people we need to attract to stay relevant. For most younger generations, clubs built around shared meals don't fit with their lifestyles. This was not an experience they had growing up and certainly did not fit with their busy social calendars.

The time and distance between us has shrunk dramatically. Instead of speakers at a podium, everybody's face is right in front of us. We speak to each other directly, face-to-face, and this has helped us transcend cultural boundaries.

Of course, we have missed hugging people, casual chats over coffee, and our in-person meetings. These things are important and will return in due time. But we're also getting better at the casual parts of virtual and turning it into more opportunities for unscripted thinking and planning.

We need to keep the good parts of what we have learned in the past year and become a more modern organization. We need to use this opportunity to welcome younger men and women and more diverse groups. This is how we will expand our reach. And the technology will continue to evolve. Our comfort will continue to grow. The technology will become more user-friendly, exciting, and engaging, and we must keep up. And we will become better at blending the live world with the digital one.

I encourage you to use the technology of this convention to have an engaging learning experience and to have fun. Please go to breakout sessions, engage in chat rooms, and try to make connections just like you would if you were at a live convention visiting the House of Friendship. So please, have fun!