



17th March 2020

Notice from Governor Ian Kiernan re: D9910 District Conference - Vanuatu

Dear Rotarian friends,

Due to ongoing concerns about the current outbreak of COVID -19 (Coronavirus) I have made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 District Conference. It is with a heavy heart that I make this announcement and it is hugely disappointing and upsetting. It was a key goal of mine to have this year's conference in Vanuatu, particularly after our last Conference in Vanuatu 4 years ago also had to be cancelled.

The well-being and safety of our Rotary community is my top priority. Furthermore, there are unacceptable levels of district financial risk which may well be exacerbated by further delaying this decision. We have been closely monitoring the situation and have considered advice from the World Health Organisation, the New Zealand Ministry of Health and Rotary International before making this decision. The recently announced self-isolation measures announced by both Australia and New Zealand have further complicated matters.

My thoughts are with all those who have worked so hard to prepare for the conference, particularly our Vanuatu team. The Conference Committee and I can assure you this decision was not made lightly. Taking all aspects into consideration though, I believe the right decision has been made.

You should be aware that ALL New Zealand Rotary Districts have now cancelled their Conferences including those being held in New Zealand. Most Australian Rotary Districts that have not already held their Conference are also cancelling.

Due to various advisories and restrictions being put in place for events and gatherings there will be no postponement, relocation or re-scheduling of our District Conference. Some consideration may be given to digital presentations via online platforms.

This has been a very difficult and unexpected situation and has been the most difficult decision for me to date. I ask for your understanding and support, particularly for our Vanuatu Rotarians who have worked so hard and been looking forward to this event.

Kind regards

IAN KIERNAN

Governor 2019 – 2020
Rotary District 9910
NZ Mobile:021 1475 527
Email: iankiernan.rotary@gmail.com
www.rotarydistrict9910.org

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