



Vittoria, 01 ottobre 2018

Dear friends and co-members,

The month of October is dedicated to Economic and Community Development. It is also the month in which, on the 24th, we celebrate World Polio Day. We ought to make our commitment to eradicate this disease more visible by means of initiatives that give value to this great humanitarian mission that Rotary International started thirty years ago. We must not, indeed, we cannot lower the guard because we risk losing all the work done so far. The goal is close. In order to reach it we must insist with our efforts and commitment.

Economic and Community Development is one of the main areas of intervention of the Rotary Foundation. To this aim, Rotary International acts in favour of microcredits, the provision of instruments and materials necessary for economic start-offs, the promotion of work and the development of small and micro enterprise. In order to offer dignified conditions of life, it is necessary to create the conditions for sustainable development that assures the fulfilment of primary needs and respect for the environment especially in the poorer communities but not in those alone. In the words of Franklyn Delano Roosevelt; *"The proof of our progress lies not in increasing the bounty of the rich who already have too much but rather in trying to supply what is necessary to those who have too little"*.

Economic and Community Development is a theme not to be tackled only in the poorer and underdeveloped nations where confronting epidemics, assisting in the proper use of water resources, supporting a school or hospital are not only humanitarian interventions but are indispensable and decisive instruments for development. This development is to be tackled also in certain areas within developed countries, our very island (Sicily) being an example of this especially with regards to the plague of juvenile unemployment which is among the highest in our Nation and, indeed, amongst the European Nations. Same can be said regarding the brain drain from our island.

With such programmes as Youth Exchange, the Scholarships and RYLA, Rotary offers useful initiatives to this end. But it certainly can do more for the various realities in our territory, above all among the young by making available our professional experience, stimulating projects and initiatives, creating opportunities and encouraging those who because of their youth and inexperience need help and support.

This Rotarian year our District can avail itself of Progetto Virgilio – LAB 2110, a Committee presided by Livan Frattini which aims at spreading a business culture among the young and of setting up youth enterprise projects that can be taken up by the single Clubs.

In Livan Frattini's own words, the Committee plans to undertake:

- Management courses relating to the vocational realities of specific territories for example in the traditional arts and crafts, specifically in agricultural labour (didactic farms, biologic produce, etc.)
- Activities for the creation and the support of start-up companies. The chosen ideas and projects which will have been brought to completion may be presented to companies specialized in fund

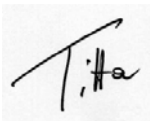
raising or who are active in financial brokerage and are on the look-out for new ideas to promote and support.

Besides, the Committee will support this Rotaract project known as Lab 2110 both for the training activities and for activities relating to activities of selection of the presented proposals.

I also hope that on the level of cooperation between entrepreneurs and young people there are exchanges between the two islands belonging to the 2110 district.

In the South of our country, particularly in our island, this shared action between businessmen and the young, between didactic preparation and entrepreneurs is not as much practiced as in the rest of the nation and this is one of the characteristics of the Virgilio Project. Therefore, let us use of the spirit of service that distinguishes true Rotarians, let us roll up our sleeves and place ourselves at the disposal of our youth and of the realities of our territory.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. SALLEMI', is placed on a small, light-colored rectangular background.