

Unforgettable San Diego & Imperial Valley 2008; Thank you District 5340!

As we land back on earth from "Cloud Nine" of a wonderful experience of our GSE mission to San Diego and Imperial Valley, I would like to express formally our heartfelt felt thanks to many people.

Firstly, as the team leader, I want to thank my team. Without you guys this would not have been successful; without you being who you are, this would not have been so much fun. I truly had an experience to savor in my lifetime. I sincerely thank each of you for the friendship and professionalism you showed to the whole exchange program and to the ideals of Rotary. We were supposed to be five but ended up 3 and most of us know the story—be we made the most of it.

Thank you to Mr & Mrs Yusuf Kodwawwala Marie Rahima Dawood Endowed Group Study Exchange and the Rotary Foundation, and to the many clubs' contributions who have made this exchange possible. Thank you to my own club, Kampala North, who sponsored me and saw the value in my representing them and the district on this journey.

Thank you, too, to the sponsor clubs of Benedict (Muyenga) and Gilbert (Bushenyi), who recognized these young professionals and encouraged them to apply for GSE.

Thank you to Rtn. Paraag and Rtn. Rossette the District 9200 GSE Chair and Uganda GSE Chair respectively for supporting us throughout the selection and training process. Our DG 9200 – Kaishik and Rtn. Geeta; your support was great. I think we did well!

To our host District 5340; DG Pam, DGE Merge, PDG & District TRF Chair Sandi and Larry the DG Designate & District GSE Chair, we really appreciate all the support before during and after the visit. We were really humbled by your kindness, understanding and unwavering support—including the square dance, the line dance and the Rock and Roll!!! You really rocked!!! Thank you for putting together a wonderful program. Thank you all for staying late to receive us at the airport.

To our area coordinators President Martha, Tim Kelly, Luene Corwin, Connie Fish, Jean Kerr and Janice Kurth and everyone who participated in the program over the past four weeks, how can we ever show our appreciation? Everybody went out of their way in some way or another, either driving for a day, hosting a pot luck dinner, inviting a team leader for port ribs, or in numerous other ways, thanks a lot. We shall never forget you.

To our vocational day hosts, we also appreciate the effort you went to show us your workplaces. Whether it was a school, college university, café farms, or courthouse we had a fantastic experience and we took back a lot of San Diego and Imperial county experiences.

Everybody who took time to participate in some way or another has helped to make this Group Study Exchange so memorable. Thanks.

One thing we wish to assure you – our experiences were so humbling and life changing. Our personal, professional and Rotary lives will never be the same. We had the time of our life, and we owe it to Rotary. Thank you good friends in District 5340 and Thank you Rotary.

THANK YOU EVERYBODY

Sincerely yours

Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa
GSE Team Leader D9200 - 2008/2009
P. O. Box 23648, Kampala
tel: +256 712 691 618
email: rwnsibirwa@gmail.com

"Opportunities have a lifetime they must be seized in their lifetime"

OR

Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa
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President & CEO
Africa Coffee Academy
Plot 31B Bandali Rise, Bugoloobi, Kampala
P. O. Box 23648, Kampala, Uganda
tel: +256 712(752) 691 618; fax +256 41 342082
e-mail: rwnsibirwa@africacoffeeacademy.com

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