

**37.030. Intercountry Committees Guidelines**

Intercountry committees promote contact between districts and clubs in two or more countries and increase fellowship and intercultural understanding among the people of various nations. Rotarians are encouraged to create new intercountry committees to foster stronger ties between Rotarians, clubs, and districts from different countries and establish networks across borders, continents, and oceans. Intercountry committees should be promoted at RI, district and club meetings.

**37.030.1. Mission of Intercountry Committees**

The mission of an intercountry committee is to build a force that will encourage Rotarians to visit each other's countries and homes, to strengthen friendships and projects so formed by encouraging clubs and districts to connect with clubs and districts in other countries, and to contribute to world peace.

Recommended activities:

- sponsor new Rotary clubs
- develop a sister or twin club network between participating countries
- conduct Friendship Exchanges between the two countries
- initiate or carry out World Community Service projects
- initiate or carry out Vocational Service projects

**37.030.2. Establishing an Intercountry Committee**

Intercountry committees should involve districts in two or more countries and act only in an advisory capacity to the governors. Qualified Rotarians in each interested country should form a planning committee to establish an intercountry committee. The responsibilities of the planning committee include inviting district governors from each district in the country to participate, identifying potential projects, and organizing a planning meeting. After the planning committee has completed these tasks, a national section should be developed in each participating country with the approval of the national coordinator and at least one district governor. The name of an intercountry committee shall be taken from the names of the participating countries.

**37.030.3. National Sections**

An intercountry committee is comprised of the national sections that represent the districts in each participating country. National sections coordinate the activities and projects of the intercountry committee within one country. National sections are autonomous and representatives from each shall meet during a general assembly to be held once a year, alternating from country to country. Leadership of the intercountry committee should rotate among the national section chairs on an annual basis. National sections must abide by the rules governing organizations in their country and should have officers including a chair, secretary, and treasurer. Chair of national sections should serve for three years.

While only districts may form and join intercountry committees, individual Rotarians, their spouses, Rotaractors, and Rotary clubs may participate in their activities.

#### 37.030.4. National Section Chair

The national section chair must be a Rotarian, preferably a past district governor, and should be selected by the governor or group of governors representing the districts located in that country. In an advisory role to participating districts, the national section chair should assist the governor(s) in supervising and promoting the activity and projects of the committee, including the arrangement of contacts between clubs and districts in the partner countries. The national section chair appointment term should be three years to ensure continuity in the work of the intercountry committees.

#### 37.030.5. National Coordinator

In countries that participate in more than one intercountry committee, a national coordinator should be appointed to oversee these activities and the individual national section chairs. The national coordinator collects reports from each national section chair in the country to forward the executive council each year. The national coordinator must be a Rotarian, preferably a past district governor, and should be selected by the governor or group of governors representing the districts located in that country. The national coordinator appointment term should be three years to ensure continuity in the work of the intercountry committees.

#### 37.030.6. Relationships with Districts

Intercountry committees shall function under the direction and with the close cooperation of the respective governors. Districts participating in intercountry committees should appoint a Rotarian to serve as the district liaison to the national section chair.

#### 37.030.8. Finances

Intercountry committees shall function without financial support from Rotary International. Modest fees may be collected from participating districts to cover operating costs of the intercountry committee. Participating districts should fund the costs of national sections and intercountry committee activities in their district.

#### 37.030.9. Executive Council

An executive council comprised of national coordinators representing each country that participates in intercountry committees. The president, two vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer of the executive council should be elected by the national coordinator members. The president of the executive councils serves a 3 year term. The president of the executive council serves as the liaison between intercountry committees and Rotary International and should submit an annual report to RI in July each year that provides contact information for national

coordinators, a list of participating districts in each national section, and a summary of major projects and activities.

#### 37.030.10 Relationship with Rotary International

The organization and functioning of intercountry committees is the independent activity of individual districts and is not a part of the program of RI. However, intercountry committees undertaking ongoing service activities, such as a World Community Service project, which extend more than one year in length should comply with RI's policy for multidistrict service activities. Clubs and districts are encouraged to use established intercountry committee relationships to enhance their participation in Rotary Foundation programs, especially in the development of Matching Grants

Activities of and information about intercountry committees will be published on the RI Web site and in the Rotary world press.