

## ALL THINGS INCLUSION AT THE DISCON 2022

The Rotary International District Conference (DISCON) took place from the 16th to the 18th of June 2022. The themes of diversity and equity in the name of inclusion were hosted by the warm baths of Bela Bela where Rotarians Owen Maroleni, Patrick Kain, Omphile Rashope, and Nosisi Dlabewu represented the Rotary Club of Pretoria East (RCPE) and learned more about the work of Rotary.

The DISCON is an annual occasion where Rotary districts with their district governor, presidents, and club members gather from local and international spheres. It features prominent speakers who shed light on issues that need humanitarian attention, business meeting discussions, and networking with members. The 2022 DISCON for district 9400, that is Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique, and South Africa, had engaging content that built motivation for clubs to transform lives. The conference's content ranged from 'Rotary Serves to Change Lives, The Future of our Countries is in the Hands of..., Making a Difference, Strengthen our Communities, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as It's Business – as usual'. These were executed as individual presentations, group discussions and project promotion, alongside social connections over mouth-watering food during tea breaks, lunch, and the gala banquet from the Eagle restaurant. District governor Stella Anyangwe and Dr. Angelica Salomao, to name a few, were the speakers whom RCPE members enjoyably connected with post the conference.

Gratitude goes to the South African Tourism and other sponsors for supporting the DISCON to have a successful online and live conference. Further appreciation is for the grand history that is being made by Rotarians and friends. Truly, it takes generosity to see a challenge as an opportunity for improving the lives of marginalized communities such as the violated and illiterate persons based on gender. The presented projects proved to ameliorate such ills.

As Rotarian PI Shereen Hunter of the E-club of Southern Africa mentioned in her panel discussion, "people follow people". It is with this reflection that Rotarians have managed to carry high ethical standards when changing lives in order to influence altruistic leadership. Since Rotary's mission promotes peace that goes beyond the absence of war, it is believed that the reporting and inspiration experienced from the conference will pave the way for greater impact on existing and upcoming projects. Here is to more inclusion!

Rtn Omphile Rashope

