

Rotary



rotary action  
group for peace  
peace through service  
Switzerland / Liechtenstein Chapter

# Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator

## Project Proposal Summary

<b>Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator's Thematic Area</b>	Cultural Resources for Peace
<b>Rotary Focus Area</b>	Peace and Conflict Prevention Environment and Sustainable Development Community economic development
<b>Contact:</b> Contact person within your group on Cultural Resources for Peace (Name and email)	Stian Kristensen, e-mail: <a href="mailto:stiank@gmail.com">stiank@gmail.com</a> Maria Jordet, e-mail: <a href="mailto:mariajordet@hotmail.com">mariajordet@hotmail.com</a>  Natalia Sineaeva, <a href="mailto:nsineaeva@gmail.com">nsineaeva@gmail.com</a> (for RPPI group coordination)
<b>Project Title:</b> Provide a full title (and acronym if any)	<b><i>Shantinilay ("A place for Peace")</i></b>
<b>Project Partners and Participating Organisations:</b> List all your project partner organisations, including participating Rotary clubs and districts if any	Mayer Tori, Lalmonirhat Bangladesh Rotary Club Dhaka Mavericks, Bangladesh Earth Care With Art, Yoga and Music - Norway
<b>Geographical Scope</b>	Village areas in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts in Rangpur, Bangladesh
<b>Summary:</b> Please provide a concise summary with a maximum of 500 words outlining the project and explaining the community needs your project will address and how these needs were identified.  Ensure that you include what your project aims to achieve (objective) and how (method/procedure). What will be the main outcomes?  Explain in a few sentences how you will incorporate the	<b>Shantinilay (<i>A place for peace</i>).</b> This project aims to empower children and folk musicians in the northern region of Bangladesh, by establishing a physical place to learn about the deep meaning of the folk songs; with instruments, a sound/recording studio and a library (with selected books). Women, men and children from different religious backgrounds will be included. There will be a vegetable garden outside, to facilitate organic farming, with elementary teaching about soil and nutrition as well as the ecological state of the planet. Shantinilay is also meant to serve as a place to inspire writing of songs, poems and stories. Once a year a local music festival will be organised.  Locally it will be a cooperation with folk musicians from Mayer Tori, who work to preserve and teach folk songs to children, in cooperation with the Rotary Club Mavericks in Dhaka. It will be an

<p>objective of sustainability into your project.</p>	<p>opportunity for young people to work as librarians and assistants in the recording studio and equip themselves with new skills. A main outcome will be sustained cooperation between people from different religious backgrounds, mostly Hindu and Muslim, but also other groups; in the area with a conflictive history between Hindus and Muslims and numerous outbreaks of violence between them as well as of growing radicalisation.</p> <p>Therefore it will be a work to preserve peace and prevent conflict and potential radicalisation. It will be a work of empowerment of children and youth, to equip them with various skills, develop self-confidence, build up cultural awareness, and learn words of wisdom from their own tradition. It will be a place that will provide healthy and necessary food in the area, as well as knowledge on elementary health and ecology.</p> <p>After the first year we plan to begin a simple publishing of recorded songs and sheets of song lyrics (archive) and poems; that will be shared with diverse audiences in various places in Bangladesh but also internationally. One of the national song traditions (Baul songs) that will be recorded in the sound studio, is already on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.</p> <p>Shantinilay will therefore also be a concrete way of taking part in the global work of UNESCO and will provide a foundation for sustainability.</p>
<p><b>Beneficiaries:</b> Who are the beneficiaries? Please include the estimated number of direct beneficiaries</p>	<p>At least 150 village children and youth of diverse backgrounds will be involved as the primary beneficiaries.</p> <p>It will be a place for peace and dialogue between Hindus and Muslims; empowerment of poor people; food production and expressive/artistic joy.</p> <p>Many more beneficiaries will benefit from the center's activities and local festival's events.</p> <p>Cultural products (music recordings and texts/poetry publications) will be made available to a wider and diverse audience in Bangladesh and beyond.</p>