

# RESOLUTION 22R-14

To request the RI Board to consider conducting Rotary events in a manner that takes global environmental issues into consideration

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Osaka, District 2660, Japan

1 WHEREAS, we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic that it is desirable to utilize  
2 apps that allow for online meetings, as well as to take advantage of other current  
3 and developing technological trends for this purpose, and

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5 WHEREAS, major Rotary events, such as the International Convention,  
6 International Assembly, and Council on Legislation can also be conducted virtually,  
7 and our organization need not revert to a pre-COVID mentality, and

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9 WHEREAS, global environmental issues should also be taken into consideration

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11 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
12 International consider conducting Rotary events, such as the International  
13 Convention, International Assembly, and Council on Legislation, in a manner that  
14 takes global environmental issues into consideration.

(End of Text)

## PURPOSE AND EFFECT

15 The 2021 Council on Resolutions adopted Resolution 21R-35, “To request the  
16 Board to consider providing a virtual meeting platform to supplement in-person  
17 attendance at certain events,” by a vote of 292 in favor and 187 against.

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19 On the other hand, Resolution 21R-21, “To request the RI Board to consider  
20 setting environmental goals for the organization,” which includes a goal of  
21 holding International Conventions in person once every three years to reduce  
22 pollution produced by air travel, was rejected by a vote of 205 in favor and 270  
23 against.

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25 Besides holding the convention every three years, Resolution 21R-21 also  
26 proposed that the annual Rotary theme be replaced with a permanent theme,  
27 “Service Above Self,” in an effort to conserve environmental resources and reduce  
28 plastic waste, among other things. However, this proposal was rejected,  
29 presumably because of skepticism as to how much the elimination of the annual  
30 theme would contribute to the reduction of plastics.

1 Taking into account the overall message of these resolutions, whether adopted or  
2 narrowly rejected, it is hoped that RI will continue to explore and implement  
3 methods of holding conventions and other Rotary events online and integrating  
4 them with newer virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, as  
5 might be expected in our post-pandemic age.

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7 We believe that utilizing the latest technologies will provide sustainable growth  
8 for future Rotary activities and will allow us to evolve into a new Rotary.

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10 Therefore, it is hoped that Rotary will be quick to utilize such cutting-edge  
11 technologies in its operations and activities.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

12 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
13 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of  
14 support provided by the RI Board to support conducting Rotary events, such as  
15 the International Convention, International Assembly, and Council on  
16 Legislation, in a manner that takes global environmental issues into  
17 consideration.