

## **Robert J. Kent Jr. – Curriculum Vitae**

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### **Personal profile**

- Autonomous and innovative supervisor with excellent communication, reporting and leadership skills.
- Strong personal integrity, relates to local communities, and creates trust by working for their interests.
- Dependable and consistent in supporting and facilitating team efforts to produce genuine long-term livelihood gains.
- Highly confident and persuasive team-builder, able to motivate local stakeholders to undertake and invest in sustainable programs.
- Persistent and flexible approach to bridging cultures between local communities/staff and foreign agencies.
- Meticulous and diligent observer of project costs and work schedules.
- Reliable long-term project planning and organization, ensuring dependable cost-management.
- Creative and original approach when working to solve abstract and complicated problems.
- Honours degree in Civil Engineering.

### **Experience**

- Four years of development field experience in water resource management, sanitary landfill design and creating sustainable community livelihood projects.
- Successful project start-up of water filter micro-business, installation team and follow-up health education coordination using Rotary International grant funds.
- Currently have a Blog reader list of 1,000+ people who contribute to Pure Water for the World's projects.
- Worked with the local government at various levels to contribute their money, time and transportation resources in order for Rotary to meet its requirements for counterpart funds.
- Hired and fired local staff in Spanish and enjoy healthy relationship with them professionally and personally.
- Organized and facilitated Solid Waste Management (SWM) conferences, bringing together community members, education facilities, NGOs and government agencies.
- Regular job assignments requiring detailed and diligent monthly reporting to inform supervisors of site/project status.
- Eight years experience of working abroad in multi-cultural environments.
- Knowledgeable in applying for grants and setting up transparent micro-credit programs at the local level.
- A project leader routinely tasked with motivating diverse groups of people to work together towards a common goal.
- Experienced in building well, rain catchment, spring-box fed communal faucet and storage water systems addressing the needs of entire communities.
- Fourteen years of computer technical skills, proficient in Windows OS, MS Office, AutoCAD, Visual Basic, IT system networks, video/picture editing, and website design including PHP, Apache Server, MySQL and Adobe CS3.

### **Personal contact details**

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## **Responsibilities and achievements**

### ***Executive Director***

[Receptive Relations](#), McKinleyville, California USA (**November.2007 to February.2009**)

**Goal:** Rasa, my wife, and I created this non-profit as a means of bridging the needs of development projects from around the world with donors who are looking for a beneficiary.

During our travels through East Asia, Central America and the Middle East, we have been seeking out people and organizations that aim to improve the livelihood of their community. Using our contacts in Rotary International, US Peace Corps and the development community, we visit projects they are working with that cover goals from water and solid waste management to tourism and handicraft marketing. We believe projects that attempt to utilize their existing resources, such as culture, skills and environment, can achieve sustainable goals, and this is what we aim to promote.

After visiting a deserving project, I will post a blog entry with the details of our experience. This is usually a story told through pictures and sent by email to over 1,000 people, who then pass it on to others. While working with donors from Pure Water for the World, this method proved to be highly successful as a promotional tool. Conveying information in this way yields a targeted audience with the ability to carry out development projects across the world.

With time, we hope to build up a substantial database of projects and contacts for the general internet community to view and send contributions too. Until May, we will be building our website in order to do this and filing the articles of incorporation with the State of California and the United States IRS to create our NGO. From May 2008 until graduate school starts, we will be travelling through South Asia and Africa to gather new project information for our database.

### ***Project Manager & Water Resource Advisor***

[Pure Water for the World](#), La Ceiba, Honduras (**July.2006 to October.2007**)

**Responsibilities:** Working for *Pure Water for the World*, I was responsible for three grants to install household water filters in rural communities and ensure project sustainability by transferring the appropriate knowledge and skills. This included: collaborating with local government units, US Peace Corps, Rotary International, Adelante Micro-lending, and CAWST to magnify project results; construction oversight, water quality analysis, computer support and technical assistance with the filter manufacturing process; coordinating with the Ministry of Health to provide public hygiene seminars, capacity building and deparasiting programs; and capacitate local staff on how to train households about personal hygiene, preventing contamination through animal maintenance and the proper use of the bio-sand filter and how its biological cap functions. I was also responsible for arranging all tours throughout Central America when project donors visited. When the opportunity arose, Pure Water also expected that I speak with Rotary groups and corporations about fund raising.

**Achievements:** I gained a better understanding of appropriate rural water technology, management experience, and health education campaigns. As the project manager, I oversaw the installation of 350 filters, executing 60% of a \$56,400 grant. This has involved communicating in Spanish to hire and train nine local staff who completed 2,000 person-hours of health education in sixteen communities. I managed a consensus among the collaborating organizations above regarding the selection of staff, determination of costs and assumption of responsibility. This resulted in the donation of financing for the filter workshop, analysis of water samples, filter transportation to the communities, and labor for household delivery. In addition to the primary grant, I opened a second grant in La Ceiba and wrote a third for the city of Tela to install an additional 2,000 filters. I also acted as country director for two months while searching for a new candidate to hire and train.

### ***Water/Sanitation Engineering Consultant***

[US Peace Corps](#), Kabankalan City, Philippines (January.2004 to June.2006)

**Responsibilities:** Generally, my duties are to enhance local communities' understanding and awareness of environmental issues related to the water cycle and proper water and waste management. Enhance the understanding and awareness of environmental issues related to the coastal ecosystem and water/sanitation. And increase communities' capacity to sustainably manage their resources. My specific projects focused on Solid Waste Management and watershed protection. As an engineering consultant, I enhanced the Kabankalan communities' understanding of environmental issues related to their management of water and solid waste. Improving the existing infrastructure included refining collection routes, introducing Material Recovery Facilities, ending open dumping, and effective education campaigns. I then took up the city's denuded watershed issue. This required reducing illegal logging by introducing sustainable livelihood options and alternative fuel sources. Bridging the issues of divergent stakeholders was also essential. Some concerns addressed were vested interests, limited resources, political aversion to risk, and transparency criteria.

**Achievements:** I guided a team through the landfill licensing application using an outline of an environmental impact statement I created. Fifteen municipalities now use this as a template. This outline also resulted in the introduction of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). These not only collect recyclables but also exchange biomass for compost and then sell the surplus as fertilizer and because the profits pay the staff, there are now five MRFs serving the city. Another outcome was the creation of "No Burning" didactic information CD with 100 copies distributed to community centres. Using solutions found in India, I introduced green charcoal, an economic alternative to sugarcane field burning. Two kilns employ three people by selling 150kg of charcoal at \$3/day/person. There are now ten kilns locally and interest from the state government. I also facilitated the construction of two rain catchment tanks, two latrines, and a water system with an elevation survey.

### ***Cable/Hydrographic Surveyor***

[Thales GeoSolutions \(Pacific\), Inc.](#), San Diego, California USA (July.2000 to January.2004)

Formerly Racal Pelagos Corp. (June.1997 to January.1998)

As the onsite representative for international offshore projects, I travelled to more than 40 countries. I was responsible for confident decision making while under considerably stressful conditions. I was able to identify system problems and carry out corrective actions. I was also the liaison between international job sites and my home office. This representation kept Thales abreast of upcoming work, relevant developments and new contracts through my friendly relationships with clients.

### ***Staff Coastal Engineer***

[Moffatt & Nichol Engineers](#), Long Beach, California USA (January.1998 to June.2000)

As a staff coastal engineer, my experience focused on wetland restoration and beach erosion. I also assisted with projects related to the design, construction or repair of airfields, roads, bridges, piers, ports and river sedimentation. As the department's IT resource expert, I was responsible for computer maintenance and repair, anticipation of modelling demands, development of IT standards and the long-term security of archived data. I was also responsible for all department CAD work.

### ***Automation System Technician***

[Control Management Systems](#), Rancho Cucamonga, California USA (January.1994 to June.1997)

My primary responsibility was to install, program and repair facility HVAC automation and control systems. This involved assembling computer workstations and installing their operating systems. I also oversaw the planning and installation of communication and power lines to control units in high-rise office buildings such as TWO CALIFORNIA PLAZA. I directed the purchase of computer control systems that, through outsourcing, identification and analysis, led to significant cost savings.

## Education

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Class of 2000)  
Bachelor of Science, **Civil Engineering**  
Minor in **Ocean Engineering**

## School projects

For my civil engineering senior design class, I was the project leader and rowing coach for the California State Polytechnic ASCE concrete canoe design competition. This included managing a team of thirty active members for six months, the design and construction of the concrete canoe, theme selection and presentation, and the competition races. My team placed third overall in the 1999 Southwest Regional Conference and 1<sup>st</sup> in the rowing competition. I was also the lead rower for the men's team in 1998, which placed 1<sup>st</sup> and the head coach for the rowing team in 2000, where the team placed 4<sup>th</sup> that year.

For my ocean engineering project, I was the lead surveyor for the Fish Harbour DGPS bathymetric survey in 1998. My main responsibility was arranging for Pelagos to donate the needed DGPS survey equipment to complete the project. I also coordinated for the use of Southern California Marine Institute's research vessel to complete the bathymetric survey portion. I compiled the data and made topographic maps using ACAD Land Developer. Southern California Marine Institute presented the final report and bathymetric charts to the Port of San Pedro for consideration in a future dredging project.

## Professional certifications and training

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (**TEFL**) Certificate. Completed March 2006.  
US Peace Corps cultural and technical training as a **Wat/San** Volunteer. Completed April 2004.  
Small ocean-craft operator licence. Obtained June 1998.  
NAUI Master Scuba Diver licence. Obtained June 1997.  
Professional Engineer in Training (**EIT** or **FE**) Certificate. Obtained April 1997.

## Civic organizations and volunteering

Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering **Honour Society**: current national member.  
**Rotary** International, Philippines: 2004.  
American Society of Civil Engineers (**ASCE**): 1998 – 2002.  
Provided engineering advice to The Rhino Fund in Entebbe, Uganda, 2001.  
American Society of Engineers and Architects (**ASEA**): 1992 – 1994, Club President 1994.

## Future professional goals

My long-term professional goal is to work for the United Nations (UN) at the director level. I plan to continue working in the field of water resource development until graduate school starts. I wish to obtain a Master's Degree in Water Resources with an emphasis in economics, policy and law. After completing this, I will explore the possibility of a PhD in Peace and Conflict Resolution focusing on water conflicts. I have also started the application process for the US State Department. If accepted, I would like to work in the Economics cone overseeing foreign aid policy and addressing international water issues. After accumulating enough experience at the State Department or elsewhere, I would then apply for employment at the UN. Ideally, I want to be in a position to address the water issues currently causing conflict in more than 50 countries on five continents (UNDP).

## **Travel / Exposure to cultural experiences**

I am currently living in Damascus, Syria.

Have lived in and am familiar with the cultures of: Denmark, France, Honduras, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and United States of America.

Have travelled to: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Macau, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Swaziland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vatican City and Vietnam.

## **Foreign languages skills**

Native **English** speaker

Colloquial Syrian **Arabic** (Nov.2007 – Present)

Central American **Spanish** (1989 – 1991, July.2006 – Oct.2007)

Philippines, Western Visayas Dialect- **Ilonggo** (2004 – 2006)

My wife, Rasa is an advanced speaker of English, Lithuanian, French, Spanish and Ilonggo.

## **References**

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