

Together for humanity  
Ensemble pour l'humanité  
Juntos por la humanidad  
معاً من أجل الإنسانية



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**COUNCIL OF DELEGATES**  
**OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**  
**AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Geneva, Switzerland  
23-24 November 2007

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMISSION**  
**OF THE EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND**

**Document prepared by the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund**



## **Executive Summary**

The financial situation of the Fund is healthy. Over 2006 and the first half of 2007, the asset management showed a good performance and the Fund received further contributions from the Japanese Red Cross Society.

During the reporting period, there have been two annual distributions of the Empress Shōken Fund. Grants to the value of CHF 900'681 were made to 20 National Societies, with a special emphasis on African initiatives, which received around one third of 2006-2007 grants.

## **REPORT 2006-2007**

### **Joint Commission of the EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Empress Shôken Fund was established in 1912 when H M Empress Shôken presented Yen 100,000 to the Red Cross to promote activities by National Societies. In 1934, a second gift from H M the Empress and H M the Dowager Empress of Japan brought the Fund up to Yen 200,000.

Over the years, due to the generous contributions of the Japanese Imperial Household and the Japanese Red Cross Society, the value of the Fund's capital has increased and now stands at around CHF 13 million. This enables the Fund to make an important annual contribution to the development of National Societies worldwide.

The purpose of the Fund is to support National Society projects related to disaster preparedness, health, youth, blood, first aid and rescue, social welfare and the dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

On 11 April each year, the anniversary of the Empress's death, the Joint Commission announces the allocation of grants to the National Societies whose projects have been selected. Although the Fund now receives about 50 requests each year, the Commission continues to stress the need for good quality, well presented submissions in line with the criteria and regulations of the Fund. The Commission encourages societies to contact the International Federation and ICRC country and regional delegations for support when preparing submissions.

#### **2. THE JOINT COMMISSION**

The Fund is administered by the Joint Commission, which decides on the annual allocation of grants and oversees its financial management.

The Commission has continued to meet annually under the chairmanship of the ICRC. Since the last report, the chairman remains the same, Mr. Olivier Vodoz (ICRC's Vice-President). The other members of the Commission are Mr. Ibrahim Osman (Deputy Secretary General, International Federation), Mr. Mike Davis (International Federation), Mr. Eduard Abegg (ICRC), Ms. Jacqueline Hugentobler (ICRC) and Mr. Jean-Etienne Brodier (International Federation), Secretary for the Joint Commission (taking over from Ms. Bayarmaa Luntan).

### 3. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE FUND

The financial situation of the Fund is healthy, and the overall good asset performance for 2006 and the first half of 2007 was in line with the positive context of the international financial markets. The net assets of the fund increased from CHF 11,609,375 at the start of 2005 to CHF 13,898,956 at the end of 2006.

The capital of the Fund increased by CHF 396,967 during the past two years from CHF 8,705,788 at the start of 2005 to CHF 9,102,755 at the end of 2006, as a result of generous contributions from the Japanese Red Cross Society. The Joint Commission would like to thank the Japanese Imperial Household, Meiji Jingu Sukeikai Society and the Japanese Red Cross Society for their continuous and generous financial support.

For 2006 the Joint Commission distributed CHF 439,192 and for 2007 CHF 461,489, about 5 % more than the year before.

### 4. 2006-2007 GRANTS ALLOCATIONS

During the period of 2006-2007, there have been two annual distributions of the Empress Shôken Fund (the 85<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> distributions). Grants to the value of CHF 902'116 were made to twenty National Societies:

- 6 in Africa,
- 3 in the Middle East and Northern Africa region,
- 4 in the Americas,
- 1 in Asia and the Pacific,
- 3 in Central Asia,
- 3 in Europe.

A special emphasis is being placed on African initiatives, which received around one third of 2006-2007 grants.

The awarded projects focus on a range of themes, including youth activities in Botswana and Burkina Faso, first aid in Rwanda, voluntary blood donations, health development and safe sexual behavior in Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and Lesotho, HIV/AIDS and drug addiction in Iran and Ukraine, malaria prevention and maternity safety in Cameroon, Sudan and Turkmenistan, and medico-social home-based care in Uzbekistan.

Others include disaster management and preparedness in Jordan and Mongolia, dissemination of humanitarian values in Honduras, and educational training centres in Bosnia Herzegovina and Guyana.

The Commission ensures an appropriate regional distribution in the selection of projects and a balanced allocation between human resource development, equipment and vehicle needs.

### 85th Distribution - 2006

A total of 40 National Societies submitted applications for 49 projects. The following distributions were made to 10 National Societies.

<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Programme/Project</b>	<b>Grant allocation (CHF)</b>
<b>Africa Region</b>		
Botswana	Active involvement of youth in disaster preparedness and response	31,592
Cameroon	Helping to build malaria control capacity in rural communities	43,732
Rwanda	First aid	46,614
<b>Americas Region</b>		
Brazil	Changing reality	33,314
Guyana	Training centre for Guyana Red Cross Lethem Branch	47,242
<b>Asia and Pacific Region</b>		
Mongolia	Improve the disaster preparedness in Ulaanbaatar	51,142
<b>Europe</b>		
Albania	Promotion of non-remunerated blood donation activities	47,291
<b>Central Asia Region</b>		
Turkmenistan	Maternity safety	56,249
Kirgizstan	Promotion of voluntary blood donation	32,116
<b>Middle East/North Africa Region</b>		
Egypt	Health promotion program	49,900
<b>Total for 2006</b>		<b>439,192</b>

**86<sup>th</sup> Distribution - 2007**

A total of 31 National Societies submitted applications for 45 projects. The following distributions were made to 10 National Societies.

<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Programme/Project</b>	<b>Grant allocation (CHF)</b>
<b>Africa Region</b>		
Burkina Faso	Project to support Red Cross youth through grassroots dissemination at provincial committee level	47,475
Lesotho	Red Cross youth in blood donor program	50,000
Sudan	Malaria control	50,000
<b>Americas Region</b>		
Ecuador	Strengthen the Club 25 strategy	50,000
Honduras	Dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the RC/CR	49,419
<b>Europe</b>		
Bosnia Herzegovina	Centre for youth training in the area of Red Cross	16,719
Bosnia Herzegovina	Equipping of multipurpose educational centres	16,568
Ukraine	Reducing the level of discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS through information sharing & safe behavior promotion	44,108
<b>Central Asia Region</b>		
Uzbekistan	Strengthening the capacity and completing with basic items of patronage sisters of Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society's medico-social service in the regions and areas of the republic	50,000
<b>Middle East/North Africa Region</b>		
Iran	Training and prevention of addicted people's wives infected with HIV/AIDS in 20 deprived and high risk cities	50,000
Jordan	National intervention team	37,200
<b>Total for 2007</b>		<b>461'489</b>

Appendices: Regulations (in force since 2003)  
Rules of Procedure  
Statement of Accounts for 2005 and 2006