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**ACTIVITY REPORT 2000-2003 OF THE
EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND AND
REVISION OF THE REGULATIONS FOR THE
EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND**

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

EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

Report 2000-2003

The Empress Shôken Fund was established in 1912 when H M the Empress Shôken presented Yen 100,000 in Japanese gold 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. The value of Fund's capital now stands at CHF 10.5 million. The purpose of the Fund is to support National Society projects related to disaster preparedness, health, youth, blood, social welfare and the dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

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 Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny (ICRC). A new secretary, Ms Christine South (Federation), was appointed in July 2003 since Mr Alistair Henley took up a new position as Head of Regional Delegation in Beijing. (Mr Henley was the Secretary from early 1998 until June 2003). The other members of the Commission are Mr Ibrahim Osman and Mr Jean-Claude Crêpy (Federation), and Ms Viviane Cagneux and Ms Jacqueline Hugentobler (ICRC).

On 11 April each year, the anniversary of the death of the Empress Shôken, the Joint Commission announces the allocation of grants to the National Societies whose projects have been selected from amongst those submitted by 31 December the previous year. During the period 2000-2003, grants were made to 47 National Societies (for details see following sections of this report). The majority of the projects were in the areas of disaster preparedness, first aid, social welfare and youth. Funds were provided for training activities, equipment and vehicles linked to these areas. The Commission ensures an appropriate regional distribution in the selection of projects and a balanced allocation between human resource development, equipment and vehicle needs.

Although the Fund now receives about 50 requests each year, the Commission continues to stress the need for good quality, well presented submissions. It is rather unfortunate that in 2002 the crisis in the world's stock markets has had a negative effect on the level of funds available to be allocated. (In 2003 CHF 295,500 was allocated.) The Commission encourages National Societies to contact the Federation and the ICRC country and regional delegations for consultations when preparing projects.

DISTRIBUTIONS 2000-2003

From 2000 to 2003 forty-seven National Societies (10 in Africa, 9 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and Pacific, 12 in Europe and Central Asia, and 6 in the Middle East) and one regional programme in South America received grants from the Empress Shôken Fund for a total amount of CHF 1,824,200. The annual grant allocations were made as follows:

79th Distribution - 2000

A total of 44 National Societies submitted applications. The following distributions were made to 13 National Societies.

Country/Region	Programme/Project	Grant allocation (CHF)
Africa Region		
Cape Verde	Vehicle for Senior Citizen Programme	33,000
Mozambique	Equipment for Resource Development	29,000
Sierra Leone	Equipment/Dissemination programme	15,000
South Africa	HIV/AIDS Homecare/Zululand branch	44,000
Americas Region		
Argentina	Disaster Preparedness/Puerto Vilelas branch	25,000
Bolivia	First aid training for youth	50,000
Haiti	Ambulance	50,000
Asia and Pacific Region		
Fiji	Vehicle for blood programme	28,000
India	Community Health programme/Orissa branch	48,000
Kiribati	Minibus for disabled school children	29,000
Europe and Central Asia Region		
Armenia	Village Ambulance Service/Tavush branch	22,000
Turkmenistan	Prevention of Tuberculosis for children	28,000
Middle East/North Africa Region		
Morocco	First aid training	47,000
Total for 2000		<u>448,000</u>

80th Distribution - 2001

A total of 49 National Societies submitted applications. The following distributions were made to 14 National Societies.

Country/Region	Programme/Project	Grant allocation (CHF)
Africa Region		
Burkina Faso	Centre for the Handicapped	38,400
Mauritius	Office Equipment for Youth and Dissemination	15,000
Sudan	Communication Equipment for Branches	49,600
Americas Region		
Ecuador	Laboratory Equipment - Branch Health Programme	30,700
St. Lucia	HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Education	34,300
Asia & Pacific Region		
Korea DPR	Family Reunion and Tracing Programme	45,800
Malaysia	Equipping Training Centre	27,000
Samoa	First Aid Ambulance	46,800
Europe & Central Asia Region		
Czech Republic	Equipment for RCY Newsletters	8,700
Hungary	First Aid Training in Heves County	7,800
Kyrgyzstan	Welfare Centre for the Lonely Elderly	16,000
Tajikistan	Varzob River Disaster Mitigation Programme	23,000
Middle East & North Africa Region		
Syria	Improving Ambulance Service/Homs Branch	41,600
Tunisia	First Aid Ambulance	56,000
Total for 2001		440,700

81st Distribution - 2002

Requests were received from 49 National Societies. Distributions were made to 10 National Societies as below:

Country/Region	Programme/Project	Grant allocation (CHF)
Africa Region		
Chad	Vehicle for Branch Development	65,000
Nigeria	Branch Youth Empowerment Project	46,000
Americas Region		
Belize	Disabled Youth Project	48,000
Panama	Integrated Community Development Project	50,000
Asia & Pacific Region		
Cambodia	Disaster Preparedness and Response Project	35,000
Solomon Islands	School Bus for Handicapped Children	51,000
Europe & Central Asia Region		
Albania	Mother & Child Health Care Education	41,000
Azerbaijan	Girls' Club	5,000
Belarus	AIDS & Drug Prevention Training	42,000
Middle East and North Africa Region		
Palestine	Child Health Care Project	57,000
Total for 2002		440,000

82nd Distribution - 2003

Requests were received from 41 National Societies. Distributions were made to 10 National Societies as below:

Country/Region	Programme/Project	Grant allocation (CHF)
Africa Region		
Gambia	First aid & rescue	50,000
Americas Region		
El Salvador	Health in the community	45,300
Uruguay	Health & humanitarian aid for communities	25,800
Asia & Pacific Region		
East Timor	Branch development & recruitment of volunteers	40,500
Laos	Branch development	30,000
Myanmar	Training centre	20,000
Europe & Central Asia Region		
Bosnia Herzegovina	Voluntary blood donation and Inter-entity youth camp	23,800
Romania	TB prevention	32,700
Russia	Social rehabilitation centre for children	7,400
Middle East and North Africa Region		
Iran	Promotion of humanitarian activities in remote villages	20,000
<u>Total for 2003</u>		<u>295,500</u>

Submission to the Standing Commission

**Revision of the Regulations
for the Empress Shôken Fund**

Preface

In September 1999 the Standing Commission suggested that the Empress Shôken Fund should be treated as a Movement matter and handled by the Council of Delegates instead of the International Conference, as required by the existing regulations. The matter was officially brought to the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Imperial Household Agency of Japan by the Japanese Red Cross and, subsequently, the Japanese Red Cross received written confirmation that the Japanese Government had no objections to this change.

This amendment to the procedures governing the Empress Shôken Fund requires the submission of a draft resolution to the 28th International Conference and an accompanying change to Article 10 of the Regulations for the Fund. The draft resolution and amended Regulations are attached in the text shown below.

Draft Resolution

Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund

The twenty-eighth International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent,

having taken cognizance of the report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund,

1. *thanks* the Joint Commission for its management of the Empress Shôken Fund *and approves* all provisions made by it,
2. *requests* the Joint Commission to transmit this report to the Imperial Family of Japan through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society,
3. *approves* the new Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund, the text of which is as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR THE EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

(Approved by the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, London 1938, and revised by the Nineteenth International Conference, New Delhi 1957, the Twenty-fifth International Conference, Geneva 1986, the Council of Delegates, Budapest 1991, and the Twenty-seventh International Conference, Geneva, 1999)

Article 1 - The sum of 100,000 yen in Japanese gold presented by H.M. The Empress of Japan to the International Red Cross on the occasion of the Ninth International Conference (Washington, 1912) to promote "relief work in time of peace", was increased to 200,000 yen by a further gift of 100,000 yen from their Majesties The Empress and The Dowager Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Fifteenth International Conference, (Tokyo, 1934). The Fund was further increased by a gift of 3,600,000 yen from H.M. The Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, and by successive contributions from the Government of Japan since 1966, and from the Japanese Red Cross Society. This fund shall be entitled: "The Empress Shôken Fund".

Article 2 - The Fund shall be administered and its revenues distributed by a Joint Commission of six members chosen in their personal capacity. The Joint Commission shall be composed equally of three members appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and three by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the quorum shall be four. The Chairman of the Joint Commission shall be on a permanent basis one of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross whereas the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall provide the Joint Commission's Secretariat. The Joint Commission shall meet at Geneva, in principle at the headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 3 - The capital of the Fund as well as subsequent donations and contributions shall remain intact. Only revenues provided by interest and capital gains may be used for allocations awarded by the Joint Commission to meet all or part of the cost of the activities enumerated below:

- (a) Disaster preparedness
- (b) Activities in the field of health
- (c) Blood transfusion services
- (d) Youth activities
- (e) First aid and rescue programmes
- (f) Activities in the field of social welfare
- (g) Dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- (h) Such other programmes of general interest for the development of the activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 4 - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wishing to receive an allocation shall make the necessary application through their Central Committees to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31 December of the year preceding that in which the allocations are to be made. Applications shall be supported by full details concerning the particular activity selected from among those specified in Article 3 above.

Article 5 - The Joint Commission shall examine the applications mentioned in the previous Article and shall make such allocations as it considers just and suitable. It shall each year communicate the decisions it has taken to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 6 - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which feel obliged by circumstances to put the allocations received to uses other than those specified in their applications for grants under Article 4 must ask for the Joint Commission's approval before doing so.

Article 7 - National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall send to the Joint Commission, not later than twelve months after receipt of the allocations, a report on the use of the allocations received.

Article 8 - The announcement of distribution shall take place each year on 11 April, the anniversary of the death of H.M. The Empress Shôken.

Article 9 - A sum which shall not exceed twelve per cent of the annual interest on the capital shall be set aside to cover the cost of administering the Fund and of assisting the National Societies concerned in the realisation of their projects.

Article 10 - The Joint Commission shall present to each *Council of Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent* a report on the current financial situation of the Fund, the allocations which have been made since the preceding the *Council* and the use made of those allocations by National Societies. *The Council of Delegates* shall transmit this report to the Japanese Imperial Family through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society. *The Council of Delegates* shall also have the authority to review and agree any changes to the Regulations for the Fund.