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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR THE PROMOTION OF CULTURE (2004-2005)

OUTLINE

Source: Statutes of the Fund, Article 9.

Background: In accordance with this Article, the Director-General reports on the activities of the Fund to the General Conference.

Purpose: This report covers the period that has elapsed since the 32nd session of the General Conference. During this biennium, the Administrative Council of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) improved its working methods and, through the promotion of the Fund, raised its profile and outreach on the international scene.

Decision required: This document requires no decision.

A. IFPC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

1. The IFPC Administrative Council met in ordinary session at UNESCO Headquarters on 22 March 2004 and 21 February 2005 in conformity with its Statutes as amended by the General Conference at its 32nd session in 2003. The Council is composed of the following 15 personalities:

Mr Eduardo Portella (Brazil), Chairperson; HRH Princess Wijdan Ali (Jordan); Ms Alberta Arthurs (United States of America); Ms Biserka Cvjetičanin (Croatia); Mr Fernando Guedes (Portugal); Mr Luis Bernardo Honwana (Mozambique); Mr Hisanori Isomura (Japan); Mr Ampah G. Johnson (Togo); Ms Cécile Latour (Canada); Mr See-Young Lee (Republic of Korea); Ms Gloria Lopez Morales (Mexico); Mr Jean Musitelli (France); Mr Antonio Rudder (Barbados); Mr Antonio Skármeta (Chile); Mr Abdullah A. Yateem (Bahrain). The mandates of two members, Ms Alberta Arthurs and Mr Abdullah A. Yateem, ended in June 2005.

B. RESULTS OBTAINED

IFPC projects

2. The number of applications for funding in 2005 has increased since 2004 from 73 applications in 2004 to 175 in 2005. Despite the difficult international financial situation that resulted in a slowing down of the activities of the two funds managed by the IFPC Administrative Council (IFPC and the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists), the Council selected six projects for co-funding in 2004, totalling US \$35,000:

- Ilusafrika (Africa) – \$5,000: An exhibition of the work of this non-profit association active in the development of children's books in Africa which organizes creative writing and illustration workshops in various parts of the continent, held at the Bologna Children's Book Fair (Italy);
- Kër Thiossane (Senegal) – \$10,000: A place of social and artistic innovation which provides young creators access to digital culture, computer-assisted creation and the Internet, focusing on women, youth and children;
- Recovering Ethno-Mapuche Traditions (Chile) – \$5,000: By means of workshops, the project aims to give back to the Mapuche people their natural right to their culture by re-activating their traditions, especially music. A children's choir was trained in the traditional music of their people and resulted in the production of a CD;
- Sharing Art and Religiosity IV (Indonesia) – \$2,000: An event organized by the Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga Foundation which brought together members of the Bali Aga, Hindu and Buddhist traditions from several countries with the aim of strengthening interfaith dialogue and a conciliatory spirit;
- Reproduction of museum objects and development of derived products (Tunisia) – \$7,000: Taking ancestral art as a reference, the project involved the reproduction of a selection of museum objects and the creation of derived products inspired by these museum objects while meeting modern criteria of aesthetics and utilization. The objects thus created were exhibited at UNESCO in 2005;
- House of Culture in a Refugee Zone (Lebanon) – \$6,000: A group of young Palestinian students and teachers who regularly participated in activities offered by the French non-

profit association ASILES in the Baddawi camp in Tripoli decided to take over the management of these activities, with the goal of becoming legally and financially autonomous. Since the IFPC subvention they have found other funding partners.

3. In conformity with the Administrative Council's decisions during the previous biennium, the IFPC also grants a quality Label to a number of outstanding projects which were not possible to fund due to budgetary constraints (18 in 2004 and 27 in 2005). Over the past two years the prestige of the IFPC Labels has helped applicants in their search for funds from other sources.

4. In 2005, the new investment plan made it possible to select eight projects for co-funding, totalling \$75,000:

- Third Gabao Hip Hop Festival (Gabon) – \$9,342: The AFRIK'AKTION Association organized the Third Hip Hop Festival in Libreville, with the aim of increasing the visibility of Gabon's culture and the potential of its artists. The festival was dedicated to the struggle against AIDS and organized several prevention activities addressed to young people who are the main victims of AIDS;
- "Bedu Tent" Marketing Strategy for Traditional Bedouin Products (Jordan) – \$10,000: The project, submitted by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), aims to develop and implement a marketing strategy for a range of products that capture the essential components of the traditional way of life of the nomadic Bedouin peoples of Jordan;
- "SHASHAT" – Women's Film Festival in Palestine (Palestine) – \$9,850: "Shashat" (screens in Arabic), a non-governmental organization based in Ramallah, organized the first women's film festival in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Nablus in 2005. By bringing international women film-makers, festival directors and distributors to meet their Palestinian counterparts, the organizers wished to promote cross-cultural exchange, dialogue and understanding and to expose local film/video directors and students, both women and men, to a body of regional and international women's production. The project also includes the setting up of a video library and a publication on Palestinian women film-makers;
- Passabe – Traditional Justice and Quest for Reconciliation in Timor-Leste (Singapore) – \$5,875: Production of a documentary film by a Singapore film-maker on the impact of the United Nations Truth Commission's work in Passabe, a remote community on the border between East and West Timor. It examines from a grass-roots level the effectiveness of the Commission's novel approach to community reconciliation based on traditional rites and ancient rituals;
- Saturdays 2005 (Mexico/United States of America) – \$10,000: A collective of four Mexican and American artists organized four Saturday events in different public spaces (two in Mexico, the United States and Argentina), with emphasis placed on artistic interventions, food, social co-existence and everyday life;
- Origami Peace Tree (Russian Federation) – \$7,100: The 2005 Origami Peace Tree Festival commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was held in Germany and featured origami (folded paper) artwork sent from young people from all over the world to decorate the symbolic Peace Tree;

- Arrivals (United Kingdom) – \$7,800: The “Modern Art Oxford” gallery proposed an international programme to present new work by artists from the ten new Member States of the European Union, including talks, lectures and exhibitions;
- Elders and Youth Sharing Paths to Well-being – a Cree Bush School on Culture, Health and Sustainable Development (Canada) – \$10,000: The project, submitted by an elder of the Chisasibi First Nation, proposes to safeguard the heritage of the Chisasibi Cree in the domain of health, while at the same time enhancing its transmission from elders to youth through a bush school held out on the land.

UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists

5. With regard to the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists programme, now a statutory integral part of IFPC, activities continued in a satisfactory manner. The programme encourages the mobility of artists and intercultural dialogue, while at the same time giving an original impetus to the creativity of talented young people. Thanks to fruitful cooperation between IFPC and a growing number of prestigious partner institutions, the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries provide young artists from many disciplines with the possibility of building solid foundations for their careers through training and internships at some 50 specialized institutions abroad. The composition of the network was revised in 2004 (two institutions withdrew and seven new ones were admitted).

6. In 2004, the Bursaries programme, in partnership with 48 institutions in 27 countries, received 1,725 candidatures and a pre-selection of 303 applications was analysed by the Jury, which selected 53 artists from 32 countries: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine and Uruguay.

7. In 2005, the Bursaries programme is proposing 62 residencies at 50 partner institutions in 30 countries. The total number of candidatures received is 1,745, and the meeting of the International Jury will be held on 30 June 2005.

8. Efforts to improve the dissemination of information on this programme continued. The graphic presentation of the Aschberg Bursaries catalogue was revised in 2003, rendering it more legible and providing more ample information. The latest catalogue distributed in 2004 contains details concerning the partner institutions and the types of residencies proposed for 2005-2006.

Partnerships

9. The Fund Secretariat continued its efforts to identify new partners throughout the biennium. A partnership agreement was signed at the end of 2003 between the IFPC and Integral Development Asset Management (IDEAM), a financial company within the French Crédit Agricole Bank Group. Under the agreement, IDEAM is committed to making an annual contribution to IFPC amounting to \$100,000 in return for jointly establishing the “Harmony List of Best Cultural Practices contributing to Sustainable Development”. The List was launched on 1 July 2004 at a press conference held at UNESCO Headquarters following the meeting of the Jury, during which the winners of the Best Harmony Practice of the Year 2004 were announced. The Harmony List aims to highlight best traditional or innovative cultural practices that significantly contribute to sustainable development and to improving quality of life by integrating the cultural dimension into social, environmental and economic development. To inaugurate the List, the Harmony Jury, composed of two members of the Administrative Council, representatives of IDEAM as well as the IFPC Secretariat, chose two practices: “Bedouin Hospitality”, and Canada’s “Bush Schools”. Bedouin hospitality, incarnated by

the coffee ceremony, is a symbol of conviviality, generosity and meeting with others in a courteous, respectful and peaceful atmosphere. The bush school is an initiative aimed at teaching young people from the Eeyou or Cree First Nation of northern Canada the traditional knowledge of their ancestors, thus allowing them to discover their roots and better prepare themselves for the modern world.

10. A ceremony to celebrate Bedouin hospitality was held in Amman, Jordan, on 9 January 2005 under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan. The ceremony and the seminar that followed were organized by HRH Princess Wijdan Ali of Jordan, member of the IFPC Administrative Council. The event was a great success and was widely covered by the media, both press and television.

11. The Cree Bush Schools were celebrated on 20 May 2005 during the “Carrefour de la citoyenneté responsable” organized in Quebec, Canada, by the “Centrale des syndicats du Québec” to officially launch the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The Harmony ceremony was successfully organized in cooperation with the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO and with the support of the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO.

12. Those involved in the two practices selected for the 2004 Harmony List were invited to submit a funding request to the IFPC Secretariat for a cultural project contributing to the sustainable development of their respective communities. The projects were approved for funding by the Administrative Council at its 2005 session (see list in para. 5).

13. For 2005, the Harmony Jury selected “Traditional Chinese Medicine of the Miao Community” (China) as the Best Harmony Practice of the Year 2005. Contacts have been made with the Miao community and the Chinese authorities in order to organize a ceremony in honour of the practice.

14. A colour leaflet was produced for each of the two winning practices in 2004 and one is planned for the 2005 practice.

15. In the context of the partnership with Radio France Internationale (RFI), IFPC contributed to the promotion of the international radio’s “Prix Net Afrique”, awarded in 2004. This new annual prize aims to discover, encourage and promote the creation by individuals or institutions of original Internet sites contributing to African development in the following domains: social, cultural, health, education, interdependent economies and innovation. This is the second RFI prize in which IFPC has participated, the first being the Prix RFI Danse, awarded every two years.

16. On the occasion of the Cannes Film Festival (France) held in May 2005, RFI agreed to air promotional radio spots on the IFPC, the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries and a project that received the IFPC Label in 2005 involving the production of a feature-length animation film for children to raise awareness of sustainable development issues. The spots were written by the IFPC Secretariat and produced by RFI.

17. During the 2004-2005 biennium, seven concerts by young virtuosi were organized at UNESCO in collaboration with the French Nouveaux Virtuoses Association, which was created to launch young musicians in their careers. In addition, as part of this partnership, a 16-year-old Algerian pianist, Paloma Kouidier, was admitted to the Paris École Normale de Musique in the class of Russian professor Sergeï Markarov, and the Nouveaux Virtuoses Association has committed itself to organizing concerts to help boost her career.

18. In view of the budgetary constraints, the celebration of the anniversary of IFPC's founding in 2004 was limited to a special UNESCO/Nouveaux Virtuoses concert held on 3 February 2004 in cooperation with a number of partners. The concert was entirely filmed by the French cable musical television channel "Mezzo", and the French-German channel "Arte" also programmed a 40-minute selection.

C. CONTRIBUTIONS, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

19. At its meeting in March 2004, the Administrative Council conducted a comprehensive discussion concerning IFPC investment policies in cooperation with the concerned services in the Division of the Comptroller. At the end of the debate, the Council decided that longer-term deposits in "callable" instruments would be in the best interest of the Fund, particularly in view of the fact that the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries capital and part of the IFPC capital could be tied up for a longer period, and instructed the IFPC Secretariat to proceed accordingly. As a result, capital interest increased significantly for both the IFPC and the Bursaries programme, and is expected to be even better in 2005 as the new investment method would have been applied for a complete year.

20. In 2004 and again in 2005, IFPC received an annual contribution of \$100,000 from Integral Development Asset Management (IDEAM) as part of the agreement signed between the latter and IFPC (see para. 10).

21. Following are the end-of-year financial statements for IFPC, including the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries programme, drawn up by the Division of the Comptroller for the periods from 1 January to 31 December 2003 and from 1 January to 31 December 2004 (Annex I and Annex II).

ANNEX I
International Fund for the Promotion of Culture
Statement of Income and Expenditure
for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2003
(Expressed in US dollars)

		General	Aschberg	Total
		Budget Code 308INT4070	Budget Code 308INT4071	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Interest accrued:	Main account	49 018	-	49 018
	Aschberg Bursaries	-	45 148	45 148
Subtotal		49 018	45 148	94 166
<u>Contributions</u>		-	-	-
<u>Other donations</u>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		49 018	45 148	94 166
<u>Deduct</u>				
EXPENDITURE		<i>see Annex 1</i>		
<u>Operations</u>				
	Subcontracts	115 726	69 171	184 897
	Consultants	68	-	68
	Travel - Administrative Council/Jury	14 192	6 320	20 512
	Travel - Other	-	56 669	56 669
Subtotal		129 986	132 160	262 146
<u>Staff</u>				
	Secretary and assistance	50 324	2 735	53 059
Subtotal		50 324	2 735	53 059
<u>Administration</u>				
	Sundry	264	1 403	1 667
Subtotal		264	1 403	1 667
<u>Increase (Decrease) provision on undelivered orders</u>		(80 211)	(9 623)	(89 834)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		100 363	126 675	227 038
Excess of expenditure over income for the period 1 January to 31 December 2003		(51 345)	(81 527)	(132 872)
Add (Subtract): Profit on liquidation of 2001 obligations		2 034	8 288	10 322
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(49 311)	(73 239)	(122 550)

International Fund for the Promotion of Culture

**Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2003**

(Expressed in US dollars)

General	Aschberg	Total
Budget Code 308INT4070	Budget Code 308INT4071	

Assets

Bank deposits	3 856 175	3 393 785	7 249 960
TOTAL ASSETS	3 856 175	3 393 785	7 249 960

Liabilities and fund balances

Accounts payable:			
Accrued payables undelivered orders year-end 2003	14 988	37 178	52 166
	14 988	37 178	52 166
Balance of funds as at 1 January 2003*	3 890 498	3 429 846	7 320 344
Excess of expenditure over income	(49 311)	(73 239)	(122 550)
Balance of funds as at 31 December 2003	3 841 187	3 356 607	7 197 794
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	3 856 175	3 393 785	7 249 960

Funds blocked under investments	3 850 000	3 380 000	7 230 000
Funds "available"	6 175	13 785	19 960
	3 856 175	3 393 785	7 249 960

***Composition of balance of funds as at 1 January 2003**

Balance of funds as at 1 January 2002	4 072 058	3 429 846	7 501 904
Excess (Shortfall) for 1 January to 31 December 2002	(111 174)	(70 386)	(181 560)
Absorption of Aschberg deficit by IFPC	(70 386)	70 386	-
Balance of funds as at 31 December 2002	3 890 498	3 429 846	7 320 344

ANNEX II

International Fund for the Promotion of Culture
Statement of Income and Expenditure
for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004
(Expressed in US dollars)

		General	Aschberg	Total
		Budget Code 308INT4070	Budget Code 308INT4071	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Interest accrued:	Main Account	73 712	-	73 712
	Aschberg Bursaries	-	56 346	56 346
Subtotal		73 712	56 346	130 058
<u>Contributions</u>		100 000	-	100 000
TOTAL RECEIPTS		173 712	56 346	230 058
<u>Deduct</u>				
EXPENDITURE		<i>see Annex 1</i>		
<u>Operations</u>				
	Subcontracts	45 683	36 280	81 963
	Consultants	-	-	-
	Travel - Administrative Council/Jury	28 590	2 176	30 766
	Travel - Other	-	76 296	76 296
Subtotal		74 273	114 752	189 025
<u>Staff</u>				
	Secretary and assistance	63 427	7 274	70 701
Subtotal		63 427	7 274	70 701
<u>Administration</u>				
	Sundry	887	712	1 599
Subtotal		887	712	1 599
	<u>Increase (Decrease) provision on undelivered orders</u>	37 263	12 789	50 052
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		175 850	135 527	311 377
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(2 138)	(79 181)	(81 319)

International Fund for the Promotion of Culture

**Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2004**

(Expressed in US dollars)

Assets

	General	Aschberg	Total
Cash and term deposits	3 796 830	3 367 174	7 164 004
Interest receivable	21 231	33 458	54 689
TOTAL ASSETS	3 818 061	3 400 632	7 218 693

Liabilities and fund balances

Accounts payable			
Accrued payables undelivered orders 31 December 2004	52 251	49 967	102 218
	52 251	49 967	102 218
Balance of funds as at 1 January 2004*	3 841 187	3 356 607	7 197 794
Excess of expenditure over income	(2 138)	(79 181)	(81 319)
Absorption of 2003 Aschberg deficit by IFPC	(73 239)	73 239	-
Balance of funds as at 31 December 2004	3 765 810	3 350 665	7 116 475
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:	3 818 061	3 400 632	7 218 693
Funds blocked under investments	3 700 000	3 380 000	7 080 000
Funds "available" ("required")	118 061	20 632	138 693
	3 818 061	3 400 632	7 218 693

***Composition of balance of funds as at 1 January 2004**

Balance of funds as at 1 January 2003	3 890 498	3 429 846	7 320 344
Excess (Shortfall) for 1 January to 31 December 2003	(49 311)	(73 239)	(122 550)
Absorption of Aschberg deficit by IFPC	-	-	-
Balance of funds as at 31 December 2003	3 841 187	3 356 607	7 197 794