

Annual Report 2008

Preface

In October 2002, Skat set up the „Skat Foundation“ with the conviction that promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience is crucial to efficient and effective development co-operation. Both good personal and professionally organised networks between organisations play an important role in this exchange.

The Skat Foundation has addressed this topic several times. First of all, the booklet „International Networks for Knowledge Sharing – Lessons Learnt“ was published, which contains three case studies. Subsequently, various further projects developed with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) via networks. One of the highlights in this context was the international Workshop on the „Management of International Networks for Knowledge Sharing“, held in St. Gallen in April 2006.

Finally, experience gathered with networks has also been included in a GTZ publication. The manual „Work the Net – A Management Guide for Formal Networks“ provides a practical guide to managing and facilitating networks. The third English edition has already been printed, and a translation in French, Portuguese and Spanish is available as well. Setting out from this, Skat has been able to develop a network management course for GTZ. Thus, over the years, a simple Skat Foundation booklet has led to a number of successful projects. This is exactly what the Skat Foundation is aiming for: taking up innovative ideas contributing to effective development assistance.

Helping innovative ideas make a breakthrough is a tedious but ultimately rewarding task that would not be possible without the active support of many actors from a content, financial and administrative angle.

In May 2008 Urs Karl Egger stepped down from his post as Executive Secretary of the Skat Foundation. The Skat Foundation would like to thank him for his dedicated work and wish him all the best in his future career. At the same time we wish to welcome Karl Wehrle, as the new Executive Secretary of Skat Foundation.

The Skat Foundation would like to thank all those involved for their effort. And special thanks go to Skat Consulting. It was they who enabled the work of the Foundation with their staff and financial support in the first place.



Dr. Rolf Leutert
President, Foundation Council



Karl Wehrle
Executive Secretary



Activities

The Skat Foundation is an endowment of Skat to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience in development cooperation. To this end, the Foundation pursues three strategies: ensuring access to Skat's wealth of knowledge and experience, supporting international networks and initiating innovative projects.

Information and Knowledge

The Skat Foundation creates access to years of experience gathered by Skat and makes this experience publicly accessible. This is achieved by distributing publications and via the website.

Publications

In Switzerland, the Skat Foundation distributes its own specialist publications as well as those of partners. Internationally, distribution is carried out in cooperation with Practical Action Publishing in England. While interest in various publications does continue to exist, distribution is on the decline. Increasingly, publications are also being downloaded as PDF files from the Skat Website.

Website

Skat and the Skat Foundation are represented on a joint Website with the address <http://www.skat.ch>, which is based on the Open Source solutions Zope (application server) and Plone (content management system).

The Website presents a wide range of information on Skat and the Skat Foundation, such as the most important projects, links to interesting websites and a large number of publications that can be downloaded free of charge. According to the web statistics, around 3,000 visits a month to the Website have been recorded.

Networks

Networks are of considerable significance to the international exchange of knowledge and experience in development cooperation. The Skat Foundation offers its services as an umbrella organisation for networks.

Rural Water Supply Network

The Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) is an international network with the aim of improving the living conditions of the poor population in developing countries by improving



access to drinking water. This network enables the exchange of knowledge and experience concerning appropriate technology and tried-and-tested methods to improve rural water supply. The members of the network are representatives of various government bodies, multilateral organisations, bilateral donors, non-governmental organisations and private companies. The network currently focuses on four goals: cutting costs in well-drilling, promoting the self-initiative of individual households and improving one's own water supply, improving maintenance and local hand-pump production.

Since 1992, the Skat Foundation runs the Secretariat of the Rural Water Supply Network. Subsequent to the fifth RWSN Forum in Accra (Ghana) towards the end of 2006, the network developed plans for measures in order to achieve the four goals it had defined. The network will continue to focus on work in Africa, where there is the greatest need for action world-wide, so that the Millennium Development Goals for water can be achieved. RWSN is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), UNICEF the World Bank and various further donors.

Innovative Projects

The Skat Foundation acts as an initiator and executor of innovative projects on the exchange on knowledge and experience in development co-operation. The projects are run in partnership with other organisations and are to be financed by various contributors.

Although the Skat Foundation initiated no new projects in 2008, it is involved in the preparation of various project ideas.

Further Projects

VSBK – Environmentally Friendly Brick Manufacturing

In 2007, the Skat Foundation had itself registered as an NGO in Afghanistan in order to execute a project on environmentally friendly brick manufacturing which is being financed by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). With a firing procedure in so-called "vertical shaft brick kilns" (VSBK), environmental pollution can be reduced by 90% in comparison to conventional brickyards. In addition, 50% less energy is required for the firing process.

Skat can boast years of experience with the VSBK technology, which has also been successfully introduced in India and Nepal. Thanks to the intensive exchange of experience and support from Nepal, the necessary empirically established know-how can now be handed on to Afghanistan.

The project has further progressed in 2008 despite of the difficult political environment in Afghanistan.



ApaSan – Swiss Water and Sanitation Project Moldova

In late 2008 a branch of Skat Foundation was established in Chisinau, Moldova to host the ApaSan project. The goal of the ApaSan which is being financed by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) is to improve the quality of life through better access to safe drinking water and environmental sanitation (WES) and to develop replicable models of WES services delivery for further dissemination and learning.

Fauno – Making Markets Work for the Poor

By mid-2008, the Skat Foundation concluded the “Fauno” mandate of the Division of Employment and Income (E+I) in the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The Foundation worked for this mandate in a consortium with the organisations Springfield Centre (United Kingdom), Swisscontact (Switzerland), INBAS (Germany) and FACET (The Netherlands). The aims of this mandate was to identify new trends to promote employment and income creation in developing countries, strengthen conceptual and methodological coherence in funding approaches, critically support the activities of E+I and gather information by participating in networks.

Training Courses

Typical examples of innovative and successful projects were the implementation of a network management course in Brazil and in collaboration with sba (Sustainable Business Associates, Lausanne) the planning and co-funding of an e-learning course on networking with more than 20 (paying) participants.



Organisation

The Skat Foundation is a legally independent, charitable foundation of Skat that is seated in St. Gallen and is under the supervision of the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations.

With the Foundation, Skat seeks to make knowledge and experience that it has gathered over several years available to all and promote the international exchange of knowledge and experience. As a socially responsible organisation, Skat covers the operating costs of the Foundation, provides the infrastructure and entrusts a staff member with the Foundation's management on a part-time basis.

Board

The Skat Foundation is led by a Board comprising leading personalities from organisations in international development cooperation, industry, politics, science and education. The Board is in charge of supervising the Foundation.

Committee of the Board

The Committee of the Board prepares the Board's affairs and monitors management activities.

Council of Patrons

The Skat Foundation is supported by a Council of Patrons that provides moral support for the Foundation's goals and activities. The Council of Patrons comprises leading personalities from national and international organisations of development cooperation, public bodies, industry, education and politics.

Head Office

The Foundation maintains its Head Office which also comprise its Secretariat as well as the Foundation bodies.

Partners

The Skat Foundation cooperates with various experienced partner organisations, especially with its parent institution Skat and the development organisations Caritas, Helvetas and Swisscontact. In addition, the Foundation maintains close working relations with various partners and competence centres in developing countries and countries in transition.

Staff

Karl Wehrle, Senior Water and Environmental Specialist of Skat, is the Foundation's Executive Secretary.



Balance Sheet as of 31.12.2008

Description	2008 (in CHF)	2007 (in CHF)
Assets		
Cash and marketable securities	114,903	242,005
Receivables third parties	40,000	0
Receivables related organisations	15,000	15,128
Receivables government	78	154
Advances to projects	0	37,000
Accrued income	0	4,770
Work in progress	0	215,019
Total current assets	169,980	514,075
Total assets	169,980	514,075
Liabilities		
Liabilities third parties	40,086	12,280
Liabilities government	7,299	14,119
Prepayments	0	192,412
Deferred income/accrued charges	1,200	154,520
Total liabilities	48,585	373,331
Restricted funds	0	37,000
Total restricted funds	0	37,000
Paid-in capital	215,000	215,000
Internally generated unrestricted operating funds	-93,605	-111,256
Internally generated designated capital	0	0
Total capital of the organisation	121,395	103,744
Total liabilities	169,980	514,075

Profit & Loss Account from 1.1.08 – 31.12.2008

Description	2008 (in CHF)	2007 (in CHF)
- Contributions Swiss authorities	137,000	225,675
- Contributions local authorities	0	0
- Contributions international organisations	0	4,467
- Contributions others	6,538	8,155
Total restricted contribution	143,538	238,297
- Various order projects SDC	0	0
- SDC, Fauno	345,674	478,512
- Various order projects GTZ	0	0
- Various other order projects	0	0
Total project income	345,674	478,512
Fund raising	15,000	15,000
Bookshop	7,521	2,313
Operating revenue	511,733	734,122
Rural Water Supply Network	-137,000	-223,262
Fauno	-345,674	-478,456
Sust. Building Manual	0	-5,164
Knowledge Forum	0	-8,155
Online Course on Network Management	-6,337	0
VAT adjustment	-1,138	-717
Bookshop	-877	0
Total direct project expenditures	-491,027	-715,754
Administration	-1,890	-2,555
Intermediate surplus	18,817	15,813
Net financial income	-772	-77
Other income	-394	0
Operating surplus	17,651	15,736
Income funds	137,000	0
Use of funds	-137,000	0
Net surplus for the year	17,651	15,736
Allocation to internally generated designated capital	-17,651	-15,736
Net surplus for the year	0	0



Notes to the Balance Sheet

In 2008, the profit of the Skat Foundation was again a bit higher than in 2007. The Foundation's capital, which had diminished during the first years owing to negative operating results, was raised by CHF 17'651 resulting in a total capital of CHF 121'980.

Notes on the Profit and Loss Account

In 2008, the Skat Foundation received contributions mainly tied to projects from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

A free contribution of CHF 15'000 was given by Skat, the parent organisation of the Skat Foundation.

On the expenses side, it has to be noted that the staff costs amount to nil because the Skat Foundation does not have any salaried employees. The Foundation's Executive Secretary is seconded by the parent organisation Skat on a part-time basis. The costs of this, of the infrastructure and of all administrative efforts on the part of the Foundation as well as the costs of distributing publications are borne by Skat.

Report of the External Auditor

TREHAG

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Bericht der Revisionsstelle

an den Stiftungsrat der
Stiftung skat foundation
Vadianstrasse 42
9000 St. Gallen

St. Gallen, 25.05.2009
RA/bo

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren

Als Revisionsstelle haben wir die Buchführung und die Jahresrechnung (Bilanz, Betriebsrechnung, Rechnung über die Veränderung des Kapitals und Anhang) der Stiftung skat foundation für das am 31. Dezember 2008 abgeschlossene Geschäftsjahr geprüft. In Übereinstimmung mit den Swiss GAAP FER 21 unterliegen die Angaben im Leistungsbericht nicht der ordentlichen Prüfpflicht der Revisionsstelle.


Für die Jahresrechnung ist der Stiftungsrat verantwortlich, während unsere Aufgabe darin besteht, diese zu prüfen und zu beurteilen. Wir bestätigen, dass wir die Anforderungen hinsichtlich Befähigung und Unabhängigkeit erfüllen.

Unsere Prüfung erfolgte nach den Grundsätzen des schweizerischen Berufsstandards, wonach eine Prüfung so zu planen und durchzuführen ist, dass wesentliche Fehlaussagen in der Jahresrechnung mit angemessener Sicherheit erkannt werden. Wir prüften die Posten und Angaben der Jahresrechnung mittels Analysen und Erhebungen auf der Basis von Stichproben. Ferner beurteilten wir die Anwendung der massgebenden Rechnungslegungsgrundsätze, die wesentlichen Bewertungsentscheide sowie die Darstellung der Jahresrechnung als Ganzes. Wir sind der Auffassung, dass unsere Prüfung eine ausreichende Grundlage für unser Urteil bildet.

Gemäss unserer Beurteilung vermittelt die Jahresrechnung ein den tatsächlichen Verhältnissen entsprechendes Bild der Vermögens- Finanz- und Ertragslage in Übereinstimmung mit den Swiss GAAP FER 21. Ferner entsprechen die Buchführung und die Jahresrechnung dem schweizerischen Gesetz und den Statuten.

Wir empfehlen, die vorliegende Jahresrechnung zu genehmigen.

Freundliche Grüsse
TREUHAND ST. GALLEN AG


B. Brunschwiler R. Allenspach
(Leitender Revisor)



Organisation

Board

Dr. Rolf Leutert, Neuhausen, President
Juerg Christen, Skat Consulting, St.Gallen
Dr. Xaver Edelmann, EMPA, St.Gallen
Dr. Urs Egger, Swisscontact, Zurich
Melchior Lengsfeld, Helvetas, Zurich
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Dr. Felix Walker, St.Gallen

Committee of the Board

Dr. Rolf Leutert, Neuhausen, President
Melchior Lengsfeld, Helvetas, Zurich
Juerg Christen, Skat Consulting, St.Gallen

Council of Patrons

Dr. Eugen David, Member of the Council of States, St.Gallen
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Dr. Richard Gerster, Gerster Consulting, Richterswil
Dr. Gourisankar Ghosh, WSSCC, Geneva
Dr. Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives, New Delhi
Dr. Rolf Wilhelm, former Deputy Director, SDC, Niederscherli

External Auditor (Accounts)

Treuhand St.Gallen AG, St.Gallen

Executive Secretary

Karl Wehrle, Executive Secretary (from November 2008)



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US-Dollar IBAN: CH03 0025 4254 6599 7160 P

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