



Annual Report 2009



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.

During the year 2009, special efforts were made to identify, select and develop four innovative potential projects within the three strategic fields of Skat Foundation considering the areas of Skat’s thematic focal areas. The proposals are in a stage that the required fund raising can be initiated. It is hoped that through the support of all Skat Foundation supporters, the required funds can be made available so that Skat Foundation will become more visible and have a bigger impact in the areas of high need.



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 www.skat.ch. 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 has been running 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 cooperation. The projects are run in partnership with other organisations and are to be financed by various contributors.

Although the Skat Foundation initiated only a limited number of new projects in 2009, it took a very active step forward with substantial contributions by Skat to identify and develop innovative projects in the three strategic fields of Skat Foundation. The development process of these projects followed the following steps:

- Development of a matrix that considers the key projects and activities (on-going and future) in the strategic fields of Skat Foundation and in the thematic areas of Skat.



- Identification and selection of future projects with highest potential for impact and available capacity for realisation.
- Formulation of project profiles including tentative budgets concerning the selected future projects.

The development process has been documented and can be seen from www.skat-foundation.org.

In the next step, fundraising will be initiated. The realisation of the projects will depend on the success of fundraising. Hence the board of Skat foundation is first of all invited to give its support, but all other supporters are welcomed to provide us with tips and hints, too.

For the quick reader, the potential future projects are summarised in the following:

1. **Securing access to sustainable access to safe drinking water for more people:**

Despite the many efforts made globally, in particular through construction of new water supplies, the number of people who have no access to water is still on the increase. One of the main reasons is poor planning and design coupled with insufficient construction quality as well as inadequate maintenance. It is this weakness that will be addressed with this project proposal. Approximated estimates suggest that investment in training can have a 10 to 20 times higher impact than investment in new construction. - The proposal builds on existing experiences and suggests the development of a training course that will be composed of essential modules addressing the key areas of weakness. The course modules will be developed along with the implementation of a pilot course in a favourable environment where experience and training skills are still available (Cameroon). At the same time, capacities of trainers for trainers will be developed so that the training course can be replicated in other areas of demand (requests for replication are already existing). The cost for the development of the training modules through the implementation of a pilot course has been estimated at between 150,000 and 200,000 CHF.



2. Sustained Access to Rural Water Supplies: 6th RWSN-Forum:

Every 3 – 4 years the professionals and practitioners of the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) are given the opportunity to share their experiences and lessons learned at the RWSN Forum. The Forums are unique in that they enable small scale private enterprises, political leaders from a local level, central government administrators, government field staff, NGO staff and donors to fully engage in informed discussion on what actually works in practice. Previous RWSN Forums have been highly successful and appreciated in terms of: (i) enabling discussion of pertinent questions in the field of rural water supply; (ii) providing an opportunity to share highly practical insights and experiences and (iii) opportunities for face to face, and informal exchange. The 6th Rural Water Supply Network Forum will take place in Uganda at the end of May 2011 and is being hosted by the Ministry of Water and Environment. The overall cost of the forum is estimated to be about 500,000 CHF. This includes the sponsorship of large number of participants from all over the world, the production of films to provide insights from rural dwellers themselves, simultaneous translation (English and French), the venue and the coordination and management of the event.

3. On-line handbook for Practical and Innovative Building Solutions:

Practitioners and technical advisors in the field are in need of reliable information about building materials, technologies and technical infrastructures that are field-proven in order to ensure high qualitative and sustainable constructions, hence contributing to economising the construction sector. For this reason, Skat's Manual "Appropriate Building Material" is still on high demand, despite its being outdated. In order to up-date this manual, Skat proposes to make use of modern communication technologies and create buildipedia.ch in the style of Wikipedia. It will include documentation including technical drawings of field-proven materials and technologies, various data such as on resistance to natural hazards, questions of sustainability, energy efficiency and environment friendliness, and application criteria. Skat will apply its expertise to audit not only so-called field proven solutions but also to assess the development of new materials and technologies. Buildipedia.ch will be open-ended. Only solutions meeting Skat quality standards will be labelled and



uploaded on buildipedia.ch. The project proposal initially seeks financial support for the creation of buildipedia.ch in the range of 100,000 CHF and an annual amount of 20,000 to 30,000 CHF to run and maintain buildipedia.ch in the subsequent years.

4. **Training on Network Management:**

Since beginning of 2009, Skat Foundation has been offering a course on Network Management using the GTZ handbook "Work the Net" as a conceptual framework. The course is implemented in an e-learning modus, which means that participants work remotely (in their place of origin) using a computer. Different e-learning tools will be used: theoretical inputs, free and guided chat sessions, on-line discussions, case studies and exercises. In order that efficient and effective learning takes place, the course will be moderated by two tutors. The aim of the course is to strengthen networking skills including understanding structures and processes of formal networks, becoming familiar with methods and instruments for managing and facilitating networks, etc. all aiming at increasing the efficiency and effects of networks in different thematic fields. The project proposal seeks financial support in order to provide access to interested and potential participants who cannot afford to pay the full course fee (20,000 to 30,000 CHF to support 20 to 25 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 comprises 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 31.12.2009

Description	2009 (in CHF)	2008 (in CHF)
Assets		
Cash and marketable securities	150,210	114,903
Receivables third parties	62,919	40,000
Receivables related organisations	20,000	15,000
Receivables government	4,200	78
Advances to projects	0	0
Accrued income	0	0
Work in progress	28,321	0
Total current assets	265,650	169,980
Total assets	265,650	169,980
Liabilities		
Liabilities third parties	53,060	40,086
Liabilities government	0	7,299
Prepayments	0	0
Deferred income/accrued charges	1,200	1,200
Total liabilities	54,260	48,585
Restricted funds	90,298	0
Total restricted funds	90,298	0
Paid-in capital	215,000	215,000
Internally generated unrestricted operating funds	-93,908	-93,605
Internally generated designated capital	0	0
Total capital of the organisation	121,092	121,395
Total liabilities	265,650	169,980



Profit & Loss Account from 1.1.2009 – 31.12.2009

Description	2009 (in CHF)	2008 (in CHF)
- Contributions Swiss authorities	135,200	137,000
- Contributions local authorities	0	0
- Contributions international organisations	0	0
- Contributions others	0	6,538
Total restricted contribution	135,200	143,538
- SDC, Fauno	0	345,674
- Various other order projects	114,054	0
Total project income	114,054	345,674
Fund raising	30,000	15,000
Bookshop	1,150	7,521
Operating revenue	280,404	511,733
Rural Water Supply Network	-135,200	-137,000
Fauno	0	-345,674
RWSN, Secr. A4A	-12,075	
CEB Code of Practice BF, USAID	-13,562	
CEB Code of Practice, UNICEF	-89,679	
Training Course: Rumpi Cameroon	-17,134	
Training object: Adjung Water Supply	-5,500	0
Una-Sana, Leporello	-1,873	0
Online Course on Network Management	0	-6,337
VAT adjustment	-744	-1,138
Bookshop	-1,988	-877
Total direct project expenditures	-277,754	-491,027
Administration	-3,091	-1,890
Intermediate surplus	-441	18,817
Net financial income	52	-772
Other income	86	-394
Operating surplus	-303	17,651
Income funds	363,447	137,000
Use of funds	-273,149	-137,000
Net surplus for the year	89,994	17,651
Allocation to internally generated designated capital	-90,298	-17,651
Net surplus for the year	-303	0



Notes to the balance sheet

2009 closed with a small loss. The capital of the organisation remained approximately the same.

However due to the Restricted Funds the balance sum increased substantially.

Notes on the Profit and Loss Account

In 2009 the Skat Foundation received contributions tied to projects from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNICEF, USAID and Aqua for All.

A free donation of CHF 5,169, as well as a donation of EUR 10,000 for the UNICEF CEB Code of Practice Project was given by Skat Consulting Ltd.

In addition Skat Foundation received a donation from the Technical Utility Weinfelden for a Cameroon Training Module.



Report of the External Auditor

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Bericht der Revisionsstelle

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

St. Gallen, 19.05.2010

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 2009 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. Brunschweiler R. Allenspach
(Leitender Revisor)

Beilagen: Jahresrechnung 2009 (Bilanz, Betriebsrechnung, Rechnung über die Veränderung des Kapitals und Anhang)

TREUHAND cba KAMMER

TREUHAND | SUISSE



Management Bodies

Board

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Juerg Christen, Skat Consulting, St.Gallen
Dr. Xaver Edelmann, EMPA, St.Gallen
Dr. Urs Egger, Swisscontact, Zurich
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Committee of the Board

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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)

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Executive Secretary

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Euro IBAN: CH27 0078 1608 6366 8200 2

US-Dollar IBAN: CH54 0078 1608 6366 8200 1

Imprint

Skat Foundation Annual Report 2009

Layout and photographs: Skat

St.Gallen, May 2010