

**ISG Report to  
Y's Men International  
ICM 2007, Adelaide, Australia  
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## **Y'S MEN – INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE TODAY**

**(By ISG Rolando Dalmas)**

After several years of tension within our Movement which affected its potential growth, I am very pleased to be able to say about the year 06/07 that it was a year of development, positive thinking, creative actions and harmonious functioning. I have the feeling that our leaders enjoyed giving and sharing their volunteer work in this new friendly atmosphere. We at IHQ also enjoyed very much the mutual respect and strong support and cooperation received from the whole Movement.

I am glad to say that the majority of the Area and Regional leaders played a very positive and important role in recovering the spirit, unity and harmonious atmosphere of Y's Men International. Very few positive things can be constructed in a negative environment, but a positive environment can bring about many achievements with the participation of our volunteer members and leaders of our Movement

In the year 06/07 we saw our volunteer members and leaders working in unity and cooperation to carry out our mission, and we hope that this will continue during this year 07/08 and in following years.

Within this very positive framework let me share with you the most important aspects of our Movement.

**The membership** has changed dramatically in the last thirty years. If we compare the number and composition of the members, we see the following figures:

- In 1975 Y's Men International had 18,513 members; today we have 30,644 members. The most significant increase in membership was between 1975 and 1995, and since 1995 the membership has been stable until the end of 05/06, with ups and downs between semesters. During the just ended 06/07 year our membership was challenged by IPIP Choi Han-ki to reach a target of 30,000+ members at the end of his term. The movement responded very positively and our membership has grown by 2,140 members (from 28,504 reported members in April 06 to 30,644 reported members in April 07).

It is very encouraging to see that in these difficult times for most Service Club organisations (many of them with a decreasing trend in membership) we experienced in the last year a significant membership growth. Nevertheless, it would be desirable to see a growth in membership taking place in all the Areas so as to avoid an unbalanced growth among the Areas.

If we make a brief analysis of the composition of our membership we perceive the following situation:

- AFR, in 1975 had 250 and last year 695
- ASI, in 1975 had 4,313 and last year 10,113
- CAN, in 1975 had 1,073 and last year 421
- EUR, in 1975 had 3,640 and last year 6,647
- IND, in 1975 had 1,410 and last year 9,874

- LAC, in 1975 had 489 and last year 590
- SOP, in 1975 had 744 and last year 305
- USA, in 1975 had 6,594 and last year 1,999

It is obvious that the growth or decrease in membership is quite different from one Area to another. I perceive the membership situation today in the eight Areas as follows: a) the concern in the Areas with a decreasing membership trend and the desire and commitment of their leadership to revert the situation; b) the stable membership in some Areas facilitating the strengthening of the Movement; c) the very fast growth, but fluctuating and not very stable membership in one Area.

But the strength of a movement is measured not only in terms of number of members; it is measured mainly by how deep the philosophy and mission of the Movement is in the hearts of its leadership and membership in general and how loyal its leadership is to that mission. As you well know, this loyalty and commitment to the mission is the strongest pillar of any movement/organisation, in particular, in difficult times. So, my advice to the leadership of each Area, and in particular to the Area with a fast membership growth but with a fluctuating membership, is that emphasis be given to leadership development, with particular focus on the mission and philosophy of Y's Men, as well as the rules, procedures and programmes of the organisation.

**The balance** in the decision making of the International Council, as a consequence of the great difference in the rate of membership growth among the Areas, is a matter of concern. The present method to define the number of seats for each Area in the International Council does not seem to be the best at this moment for a balanced voting. For this reason, a Power Balance Committee was formed two years ago with the commission "*to recommend to the International Council ways in which a power balance can be achieved in the International Council which not only recognises the democratic superiority of the majority but also protects the rights and voice of the minority*". This Committee has done a tremendous job and their report will be received and discussed during these days by all of you. It is hoped that the International Council can arrive at a consensus on this matter.

**The Forward Plan** is an important tool if we are to succeed in the development and strengthening of Y's Men at the world level and for that, it is essential that the plan be adopted and implemented at the Club level. We are entering the third year of the first "three-year term" of the 2005-08 plan, and our main task should be to find ways at the Area, Regional and District levels to facilitate and motivate the Clubs to implement the Action Plan of the Forward Plan in its diverse components. Allow me to make a few comments on each of the six programme areas of this plan.

- **Relationship with the YMCA.** In the last years there has been a great improvement in the cooperation with the YMCA at the local and international levels. Both Movements see the benefits of mutual cooperation. Agreements of cooperation are being signed by several Areas and Regions. Several meetings between the World Alliance and Y's Men International took place in Geneva with the objective of defining a clearer cooperation between the two Movements. It is my hope that some TOF funds can be allocated to projects proposed by those YMCAs included in the Global Operating Plan of the World Alliance of YMCAs. This would be very beneficial for both Movements.
- **Membership Growth.** It is clear that after several years of increasing awareness about membership decrease, our Movement is working hard to reverse the situation. These efforts are giving different results in the different Areas. It is crucial that Clubs in those Areas experiencing a status quo and/or membership decrease trend implement the objectives of the Forward Plan to improve their membership situation.
- **Leadership Training.** It is one of the strongest pillars for the development of our Movement. I am very pleased that the eight Areas are placing great importance on it and that training at many levels of the organisation is taking place. New training initiatives are taking

place in our Movement. Examples of this are the Leadership Training and Organisation Development Workshop, the one-day training of the Area Presidents-Elect prior to the Mid-Year Meeting, the one-day training of the International Council Members prior to the International Council Meeting, the training of the RDE Teams in conjunction with the RDE Training, the Training of District Governors and Service Directors, etc. This should be a continuous process and with strong emphasis during the years ahead.

- **Youth Involvement** is being promoted very intensively by several Areas and Regions, with the strong support of the Youth Intern and the International Youth Representative. The official procedure to charter Y's Youth Clubs has been implemented and five Youth Clubs were chartered during the year 06/07, in Japan (2), Korea (1), Australia (1) and India (1). At present there are twelve Youth Clubs in Africa in the process of being officially chartered. I kindly encourage all of you to give the importance that youth involvement should have in Y'sdom by giving motivation and support to the formation of Y's Youth Clubs. Give to the youth in your Area and Region the chance to be active participants in Y'sdom and do support their initiatives.
- **Y's development in new and economically less developed countries.** Y's Men's Clubs were started in several new countries and territories. This is encouraging and in particular it is good to see many youth members in those countries. Examples of this are some of the former Eastern Bloc European countries. It would be very appropriate to develop an extension strategy at the international level. Please think about it.
- **Community Service.** It is probably one of the common denominators of our movement at the Club level and one of our most extended programmes. Y's Men is a "service movement" and if the Clubs serve their communities well, people will be attracted to join our Movement. Nevertheless, it is very important that through this programme area of the Forward Plan, we can have a good spectrum of the activities of our Clubs in their communities. At the same time, new ideas and initiatives for community service can be promoted through this programme area.

In brief, to develop and strengthen our Movement it is important that we can see, at all levels, the whole forest and not only a tree; and much better if we perceive the forest as it is today and as it would be in the medium and long term. Think about how many trees you expect your forest to have in five or ten years and also think about how strong and vital these trees are and would be.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Let me now change the topic of this report as I wish to share with you information in respect of the International Programmes sphere of our Movement. We see that there is a positive trend regarding contributions to the International Programmes (ASF, BF, TOF and EF); nevertheless, there are also ups and downs from one year to another.

We received very generous programme contributions in the year 06/07, with a significant increase of 12% as compared to the year 05/06. CHF 703,834 (USD 574,543 approximately) were received for the following programmes:

- Time of Fast CHF 339,265
- Brotherhood Fund CHF 221,939
- Alexander Scholarship Fund CHF 27,014
- Endowment Fund CHF 115,730

These contributions represent 95% of the International President's goal (the goal was CHF 744,471). This is another positive expression of your and your Clubs' commitment and support to Y's Men International and I am very grateful to all of you and the Clubs in your Areas for your very generous contributions.

In the whole Movement, the average programme contribution per member was CHF 23.47; the two Areas which gave the highest average contribution per member were the two smallest Areas in terms of membership: Canada with CHF 50 per member and South Pacific with CHF 49 per member. The Region which gave the highest average contribution per member was Mid America (USA) at CHF 85.

Let me take some time in making a brief analysis on the evolution of the four International Programmes during the last three years.

## TIME OF FAST

### Time of Fast in Swiss Francs

AREA	Västeras 04/05 Actual	Busan 05/06 Actual	Adelaide 06/07 Actual
AFR	743	1,116	863
ASI	87,508	78,596	103,053
CAN	8,457	8,442	7,495
EUR	111,561	124,755	154,781
IND	10,751	5,874	15,154
LAC	2,527	2,623	2,584
SOP	6,251	5,214	5,782
USA	40,539	54,446	47,774
YOUTH TOF		878	
OTHERS	493		1,778
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268,830</b>	<b>281,944</b>	<b>339,265</b>
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>322,338</b>	<b>302,825</b>	<b>348,056</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>83 %</b>	<b>93 %</b>	<b>97 %</b>

We can see a very significant increase in the contributions during the last three years. The TOF contribution received in 06/07 is 27% more than the contribution in 04/05, and the Area that gave the largest contribution to TOF in the three years is Europe. This is a very good result and shows the importance and validity it has in the eyes of the members.

This chart shows the annual contributions received since the programme started in 73/74.

## BROTHERHOOD FUND

### Brotherhood Fund in Swiss Francs

AREA	Västeras 04/05 Actual	Busan 05/06 Actual	Adelaide 06/07 Actual
AFR	85	216	468
ASI	115,076	106,821	111,796
CAN	12,865	12,651	12,435
EUR	42,622	48,541	55,681
IND	4,352	4,071	6,937
LAC	1,927	1,831	1,772
SOP	11,857	6,010	6,337
USA	29,718	27,781	26,398
OTHERS		26	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218,502</b>	<b>207,948</b>	<b>221,824</b>
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>256,674</b>	<b>200,729</b>	<b>258,311</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>85 %</b>	<b>104 %</b>	<b>86 %</b>

We can see a small increase in the contributions during the last three years. The BF contribution received in 06/07 is 4% more than what was received in 04/05, and the Area that gave the largest contribution to BF in the three years is Asia. This is also a positive result and demonstrates the validity of the BF Programme.

This chart shows the history of annual contributions to BF from 73/74.

## ALEXANDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This is our programme with a strong link to training of YMCA professionals. As this programme is 90 % local and only 10% international, it is very difficult to provide accurate information about the real magnitude of contributions at the local level.

### International Alexander Scholarship Fund in Swiss Francs

AREA	Västeras 04/05 Actual	Busan 05/06 Actual	Adelaide 06/07 Actual
AFR	42	92	0
ASI	10,607	9,949	19,764
CAN	560	768	498
EUR	2,066	2,176	2,694
IND	1,549	467	1,639
LAC	240	655	77
SOP	1,319	293	500
USA	1,787	1,785	1,842
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,170</b>	<b>16,185</b>	<b>27,014</b>
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>19,437</b>	<b>7,891</b>	<b>20,989</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>93 %</b>	<b>205 %</b>	<b>129 %</b>

We see a very considerable increase in the contributions during the last three years. The ASF contribution received in 06/07 is 46% more than the contribution received in 04/05, and the Area that gave the largest contribution to ASF in the three years is Asia. This is another very encouraging result in our efforts to support the YMCA.

Theoretically speaking, we can assume that if the amount received at the International level represents 10% of the total amount collected, then around US\$ 270,000 was given last year to the YMCA through ASF.

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment Fund provides financial support to Y's Men International. The EF Trustees, chaired by Bob Daniels, are the custodians of this fund.

### Endowment Fund in Swiss Francs

AREA	Västeras 04/05 Actual	Busan 05/06 Actual	Adelaide 06/07 Actual
AFR	128	123	0
ASI	48,682	23,311	39,365
CAN	160	453	327
EUR	19,111	19,957	17,431
IND	28,002	27,278	38,445
LAC	680	1,184	2,126
SOP	1,027	740	1,594
USA	6,160	5,515	16,443
OTHERS	884		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,834</b>	<b>78,561</b>	<b>115,730</b>
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>78,236</b>	<b>85,112</b>	<b>117,115</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>134 %</b>	<b>92 %</b>	<b>99 %</b>

Again, we see a very positive result in EF contributions during the last three years. The EF contribution received in 06/07 is 10% more than the contribution received in 04/05; nevertheless, the 05/06 EF contribution shows a considerable decrease compared with the previous and following years. The Area that gave the largest contribution to EF in the three years is Asia. This is another encouraging result and it demonstrates that Y's Men members are enthusiastic in giving strong financial support for the health of our Movement.

This chart shows the annual contributions in CHF received since 73/74.

## OTHER PROGRAMMES AND SERVICE AREAS

I wish to express also my recognition and appreciation to many other leaders of diverse programmes and service areas which are vital for Y's Men International to accomplish its mission.

Think about how many volunteers are giving support at the International, Area and Regional levels in the following fields: Alexander Scholarship Fund, Brotherhood Fund Promotion, Brotherhood Fund Expenditure Committee, Brotherhood Fund Philatelists, Brotherhood Fund Travel Coordinators, Bulletin Editors, Christian Emphasis, Community Service, Endowment Fund Promotion, Endowment Fund Trustees, Extension, Historians, International Brother Clubs, Leadership Training & Organisation Development, Membership Conservation, Public Relations, Supplies, Short Term Exchange Programme, Time of Fast, Youth Educational Exchange Programme, Youth Involvement and Activities, Youth Representatives, Webmasters, World Alliance of YMCAs Liaison to Y's Men, Y's Men Liaisons to YMCA, Y's Menettes, Youth Representative Mentor, Y's Men's World and members of Committees and Task Forces. All of them are the real force of our volunteer Movement.

**The Operating Account Finances** of Y's Men International are in good health. You already received the first report from our IT, so I will not repeat what he has said. Let me only show the graph with the Operating Account results during the last fifteen years and you can see a positive result each year that goes from CHF +521 in the year 02/03 to +68,065 in the year 90/91. In the year 06/07 the Operating Account result was +38,316.23. These figures do not include the Market Valuation gain.

The annual results of the international operation of the Movement and the reserve and various funds that Y's Men International has, gives stability to its functioning and allows it to accomplish its mission through the various programmes at international and local levels.

I perceive our Movement today full of vitality and wishing to overcome the status quo and/or decreasing membership trend in some Areas. I am sure that in this environment of unity and a deep feeling of belonging to an "international family", Y's Men will continue developing around the world.