

**Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT
(Part II Presented to the International Council Meeting)
Västeras, Sweden - 25 to 28 July, 2005**

In the ICM 05 Work Book you saw the first part of my report, which includes comments about each programmatic area of the Forward Plan and the staffing situation at IHQ. I will come back to them at the end of this report.

Through this report I will share with you the most important happenings and results during the year 2004/05. Each year has its particularities and also some similarities that you will discover during my presentation.

A) Club Survey 2004 (slide 2).

Let me start by giving an overview of the main characteristics of our Movement at the world level. During the year 2004/05 we carried out a Club Survey with the objective of having updated information on the clubs as the last survey was done in the year 2000.

The survey questionnaire was sent through the Regional Directors to one thousand five hundred and twenty-five (1,525) clubs, out of which 24 % answered the questionnaire (see slide 3 showing response rate by Area).

The total membership included in the survey was twenty-seven thousand two hundred and eighty (27,280) and the answers received correspond to 30 % of the membership (see slide 4 showing response rate by Area).

From the responses received, corresponding to 8,300 members, we find that 40 % are YMCA members, 20 % are women – with large differences between the Areas as can be seen from slides 5 and 6.

Less than 2% of our members are “youth” (25 years or younger) and our international average age is 58 years (slide 7). The Area with the lowest average age (42 years) is India with over 16% “youth” (slide 8) and the Area with the highest average age (63 years) is Europe with 0.2% “youth” (slide 9). These figures correspond well with the demographics (“population pyramids”) in the respective Areas.

From the Club Survey we perceive our Movement with the following characteristics:

- Around 600 Y's Menettes Clubs with an estimated membership of 4000 women are part of the Y's Men family.
- Over 100 Youth Groups/Clubs with an estimated membership of over 2,000 youth are part of the Y's Men family.
- 53% of our membership has belonged to our movement for more than 10 years; 35% for more than 2 years and less than 10 years and 12% has belonged to our movement for less than 2 years.

From the contribution point of view, we can estimate that:

- USD 4,500,000 is contributed annually by Y's Men's Clubs to the local YMCAs; USD 2,700,000 to the local communities; USD 1,100,000 to Regional and Area projects and USD 600,000 is contributed annually to International projects.

- The total contribution given by Y's Men is channelled: 51% to the local YMCAs; 29% to the local communities; 12% to the Regional and Area Projects and 8% to the International projects. There are great variations between the Areas as can be seen from slide 10.

B) Reported and Paid Membership (slide 11)

At this moment we are very close to the highest number of members that our Movement has ever had in its history (see slide 12). This was in April 1966 when twenty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty-seven (29,367) members were reported, as compared to April 2005 with twenty-eight thousand six hundred and ninety-two (28,692) members reported (see slide 13).

As at 30 June 2004 we had twenty-six thousand four hundred and ten (26,410) paid members and at 30 June 2005 we have twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and forty-five (27,945), a good increase of 5.80 % in paid membership.

Nevertheless, the average of paid membership against reported membership continues to be very similar (96.33 % in the year 2003/04 and 96.80 % in the year 2004/05).

Slide 14 gives us an overview of the situation in each Area as at 1 October 2004, while slide 15 shows the situation as at 1 April 2005.

As can be seen in slide 16, our membership in the Second Semester 2004/05 increased greatly by one thousand four hundred and twelve (1,412) members, due mainly to the high number of new clubs in India. At the same time that I congratulate India for their outstanding growth, I wish to encourage them to nurture all these new clubs for at least two years.

We should not be content to accept the situation as it is today; we must do our best to continue increasing our membership. The more members there are, the more service and help we can provide to the less fortunate.

I have three major concerns regarding membership: a) the first one is the big disparity among the different Areas that reflects the uneven development of the movement; b) the second concern is the situation of the South Pacific Area, now with only one Region comprising twelve clubs in Australia and one independent club in New Zealand. It is obvious that this International Council should take some decision in this regard; c) the third concern is the continuing decrease in membership in USA. USA had in October 1975 six thousand five hundred and ninety-four (6,594) members and since then its membership has been decreasing, with at this moment two thousand three hundred and sixty-eight (2,368) members.

The action plans for Extension and Membership Conservation in the Forward Plan should give priority to those Areas with a lower number of members (SOP, AFR, CAN and LAC) and those that are continuously losing members, like the USA. I urge the International Council to adopt some strategic objectives in this regard.

C) Census Year

This year, like in every odd-numbered year, is a census year to calculate the number of ICM seats by Area in the International Council. The calculation is based on D'Hondt's method, which is based on the average of the paid membership in the last four semesters (October 03 to April 05).

The result of this census is that USA has lost one seat and Europe has gained one seat (see slide 17). So, starting in July 2006 USA will have only one representative in the International Council (the

Area President) and Europe will have five representatives. USA and Europe need to define their procedure for this transition.

D) International Programmes (slide 18)

I now wish to refer to the financial results of the international programmes and at the same time to make some comments on each of them. The financial contributions to the international programmes are at the global level a clear expression of commitment and dedication of our membership. Let me show you results in contributions received for the four main programmes of Y's Men: Brotherhood Fund, Time of Fast, Alexander Scholarship Fund and Endowment Fund.

Brotherhood Fund received a total contribution of US\$ 176,941 (see slide 19) against the goal for the year of US\$ 199,980; this means that we reached 88% of the goal. The Brotherhood Fund is another important tool that Y's Men International has to train present and future leaders. My concern at present regarding this programme is that sometimes, in some Areas, the leaders responsible for the organisation of these trips are not assuming their responsibility in full, creating anxiety in delegates until the last minute of their departure. Very often, it also happens that it is the delegate who does not give any "sign of life" until the last minute, complicating a lot the coordination that the hosts must undertake. In both cases, it means a lot of extra work for the delegate, the ITC, ATC, RTC and IHQ. I appeal to all parties involved in these exchanges to assume their responsibility in full and well in advance of the travel date of the delegate.

The next slide (see slide 20) shows the history of annual contributions to BF.

By supporting this programme, we are promoting and supporting the training of our present and future leaders who play an essential role in the strengthening and extension of Y's Men.

Time of Fast received a total contribution (see slide 21) of US\$ 222,641 against the goal for the year of US\$ 251,140; this means that we achieved 89% of the goal. The next slide (see slide 22) shows the history of annual contributions to TOF. The total amount of allocated funds through this programme since 1973 is close to US\$ 4 million (see slide 23). The Area that received the most support is Latin America & Caribbean, followed by India and Africa.

In recent years too much emphasis has been given to "buildings and equipment" and it is my hope that in the future more emphasis will be given to people – their development and self-improvement. I strongly believe in this expression of solidarity of Y's Men with the YMCA and our communities, which give our Movement a strong international identity.

Contributions for the Tsunami victims (see slide 24) were received at IHQ, totalling an amount of one hundred two thousand five hundred and seventysix (CHF 102,576270). In addition, other contributions were given by Y's Men's Clubs around the world directly to the victims of this disaster and/or through national/local organisations. Part of this generous contribution has already been allocated and transferred and the balance will be decided upon during this Council Meeting.

Alexander Scholarship Fund (see slide 25 for details by Area) received a total contribution of US\$ 14,924 against the goal for the year of US\$ 15,144; this means that we achieved 99% of the goal.

As this programme is 90 % local and only 10% international, we can assume that more than one hundred and thirty four thousand dollars (USD 134,000) were given locally with the objective of supporting YMCA professional training.

Again, I wish to encourage you to transmit to your Regional Directors, District Governors and Club Presidents the importance of responding to the request for information about contributions given at the local level to enable us to evaluate the present relevance of this programme. I expect that the

ISD for ASF will again carry out the ASF Survey this year, with the very simple form designed to this effect, so we can have more accurate information on the whole programme (locally and internationally).

Endowment Fund (see slide 26 for details by Area) received a total contribution of US\$ 85,674 against the goal for the year of US\$ 60,955; this means that the goal was surpassed by +41%.

The next two slides shows how the EF has grown through the years. Slide 27 shows the development expressed in Swiss Francs. As at 30 June 2004 the Endowment Fund had an invested portfolio of CHF 2,202,828 – and slide 28 shows the development expressed in US Dollars (USD 1,718,604).

It is important to mention that the world economic market continues improving since two years ago and this is reflected in the performance of the EF investments. The evolution of the performance of this investment in Switzerland in the last three years is encouraging.

Other Programmes and Service Areas are also essential for Y's Men International to accomplish its mission. A large number of devoted and motivated leaders are giving their valuable time and service to carry out their responsibilities in many service areas and programmes, and as leaders in other capacities at the International level. Our sincere appreciation and thanks go to all those leaders giving support at 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 Co-ordinators, Christian Emphasis, Community Service, Endowment Fund Promotion, Endowment Fund Trustees, Extension, Historians, International Brother Clubs, Leadership Training, 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, Bulletin Editors and Y's Men's World.

The excellent results of the year 2004/05 have been possible thanks to all these leaders, as well as thousands of Y's Women and Y's Men around the world, and also the commitment, dedication and loyalty of the IHQ staff to the Movement and their hard work and strong support.

E) Finances

I want to conclude this report expressing some concerns regarding our finances. We are a non-profit organisation but sometimes I have the feeling that finances come first and the service is in second term. Many times the financial health of the Movement is searched cutting down services, international programmes, staff, etc instead of looking for new resource generation. It is a risk that with this procedure a gradual and permanent operational declining trend be promoted. Less resources means less programmes, less services, which generate fewer resources and so on. The strength of our Movement should be promoted through positive measures and actions.

I kindly request the International Council to think about this and take decisions that reflect the philosophy and spirit of our Movement and at the same time bring about a healthier condition for the functioning of the Movement.

Respectfully submitted,

Rolando Dalmás
Secretary General