

The WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION ('WMO')

Report of the WMO for the period to 13th April 2007.

By: Abba Ali Yousuf
Secretary General - WMO

Assalam-u-Alaikum,

1. The WMO CONFERENCE IN DUBAI:

The WMO Board of Management and Trustees held their Meetings in Dubai from 23rd to 25th December 2006 on the auspicious occasion of Wedding Ceremony of the WMO President, Haji A Razzaq 'ARY's beloved daughter, Shabana Bano married to Mr. Abdul Kayum on the 25th December 2006. A large number of Community members from various parts of the world attended this great event. Exclusive five star arrangements of boarding and lodging for the comfort and convenience of all the WMO delegates and other guests were made by courtesy of the host. Accommodation included dining facilities of delicious breakfast, lunch and dinners for seven days, all paid for by the host, which were received warmly and gratefully by all those present. Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes go to the newly wedded couple. May Allah (SWT) grant them happiness and prosperous long married life, Aa'meen.

2. The Board of Trustees:

On the 22nd December 2006, the Board of Trustees had its meeting to review the progress made by the two Organisations; i.e., WMO and WMOCF. Important decisions, including Grants for various Projects for different chapters were tabled for implementation. The Board had discussed the need for policy making and to frame standard procedure, which had been adopted at this meeting. There are now total 30 paid Trustees of the WMOCF. Their continued support and participation in various welfare works of the Community are greatly appreciated. It may be noted that some anonymous donors have so far donated **£Stg.1.2 million** for various projects of the WMO. May Allah (SWT) give them reward in abundance for their generosity and selfless service for the well-being of our community in particular and other mankind in general, Ameen. The Trustees had their concluding meeting in the afternoon of 25th December 2006, when large sums of funding was discussed for the Organisation's forthcoming projects in the coming year.

3. The Board of Management Meetings:

The new Board of Management was elected at the Colombo, Sri Lanka AGM held on 19th May 2006. Specialist Committees were formed immediately after that meeting. This Board would continue to perform for a new term of two years for 2006 and 2007. This was the Board's 2nd meeting in which performance of each chapter was deliberated upon. It was noted that the following finances were approved and implemented:

Sri Lanka:

Housing Project (from Zakat Fund) for 100 Houses at the cost of US\$.1 million, of which the Chapter had collected US\$0.5 million being ratio of 1 : 1. The WMO has so far paid the sum of US\$200,000 out of the total commitment of US\$500,000.

Pakistan:

- a) Office Premises (Non-Zakat Fund) – Total US\$.295,000 was estimated of which US\$43,000 as grant and US\$83,000 as loan were approved. A further US\$83,000 was approved as loan at the above Board of Trustees meeting.
- b) Education Programme – Total fund of US\$.75,000 was paid by the WMO.
- c) Rehabilitation Project (Zakat Fund) – Total sum of US\$.1.15 million was granted with an agreed ratio of 1 : 1. The WMO had paid out US\$150,000 during 2006 and recently a further sum of US\$300,000 has been paid towards this project.

India:

- a) Education Programme (Zakat Fund) – US\$1.5 million was donated;
- b) Rehabilitation Project (Zakat Fund) – Bangalore and Hyderabad – US\$.250,000 was donated

4. Trustees, Patrons, Life Members and Ordinary Members:

We have pleasure in confirming that the number of Trustees and Patrons has increased to **30** and **20** respectively, most of them have now been fully paid, for which we are most grateful to them.

In addition there are about **500 Life Members** and **400 Ordinary Members** have been registered. We invite all our community members to join the WMO and WMOCF as their members as soon as possible. Please visit our website for more details: www.worldmemon.org

5. Projects in Pakistan:

The WMO Pakistan Chapter deserves our profound compliments for its tremendous team work in the multifarious social and welfare works. They have recently successfully acquired an excellent office premises with covered area of over 3000 square feet in Muslimabad, Karachi for a total consideration of Pak Rs.17.7 million (US£295,000), which has been named as “**WMO House**”. The phone numbers are: (92) 21 – 4910437, (92) 21 – 4911963 and (92) 21 – 4911179. Fax No. (92) – 21 4911642. We wish to congratulate Pakistan Team for this wonderful achievement.

The Pakistan Chapter has an excellent Housing Scheme to provide finances to needy and deserving Memon families in Pakistan. The WMO had committed Pak Rs.20 million (US\$350,000) for this Scheme, PROVIDED the local community contributed at least Pak Rs.40 million. I am pleased to say that both these targets have been achieved successfully. The WMO has, therefore, paid out the sum of **US\$775,000** towards this Scheme. The Rehabilitation Committee has plans to convert some premises/flats which were acquired on Pagri basis to ownership basis in order to relieve poor families from the clutches of landlords. They have estimated Rs.20 million for this purpose to assist 400 such families. The local community has pledged Rs.10 million, whereas the balance sum of Rs.10 million was considered by the WMO at the previous board meeting.

The WMO-PC has also undertaken Educational/Scholarship Programme, Census of the Memon community, Assistance to Widows and other needy Memons with the help of a strong Fund Raising Committee of local volunteers. The WMO had contributed the sum of **£Stg.60,000** (Pak Rs.6 millions) and a further sum of **£Stg.75,000** was paid by the WMO London recently towards various social and welfare projects there.

Pakistan Earthquake: This was reported and discussed at the previous meeting held in Dubai. The Pakistan Chapter has since continued relief work for the victims of earthquake.

6. Projects in India:

I have pleasure in confirming that all the required documents have been forwarded to the advocate Firdoshali for the registration of a Branch Office of the WMO-India Chapter. We hope and pray that the registration work be processed smoothly and quickly in order to open a FCRA bank account, which is needed for implementation of all our projects.

I have also pleasure in confirming that funding for scholarships in the sum of **US\$1.2 million** was paid out for deserving and needy students to pursue higher studies in India and abroad.

Our new Team of enthusiastic and dedicated officials have an ambitious programme of Housing, Education and Social & Welfare projects during the current year, for which the WMO has sanctioned substantial funding. In the interim, arrangements are underway for the registration of India Chapter as a branch of the WMO in order to implement successfully all those projects.

7. The WMO Audited Accounts:

We expect the 2005 Accounts signed by the Auditors and the Treasurer to finalise the 2006 Accounts for approval by the Board of Management at this meeting.

8. The World Memon Projects:

The Board of Management is determined to continue with its projects of Housing Schemes for distressed families in Pakistan and India together with monetary assistance to Widows and grants for Scholarships to needy deserved students for higher studies as well as support to Memon Hospitals worldwide for medical projects. These projects will be further discussed by the Board of Management in order to take appropriate further action in the future.

9. The Middle East Region and Registration of the WMO Head Quarters:

The WMO Head Quarters in Dubai were registered with the Dubai Humanitarian City, now known as Dubai Aid City (DAC) has been renewed for the year 2006/07, and it has continued its Bank Account with Union National Bank at Sheikh Zayed Road Branch, P.O. Box 23747, Dubai, UAE and United Bank, Dubai as before. We are most grateful to the Middle East Region for hosting the Board of Management Meetings of 23rd - 25th December 2006 in Dubai, where the entire expenditure was paid for by the WMO President. We greatly appreciate his hospitality and continued support to the WMO and WMOCF.

Their progress report showed that 8 Trustees, 1 Patron, 31 Life Members and 35 Ordinary Members were enrolled. With regard to the position of COO, it was agreed at the previous BoM meeting that a full time COO for the WMO would be engaged to ensure professional management. This task has been assigned to a Committee appointed by the BoM.

10. Africa Region:

Our Africa Region had been very active in a number of social and welfare works; especially in the following projects:

- a) To collect a sum in excess of R1 million and present it to the State President;
- b) To mobilize the executive and direct Zakaat funds through the WMO Africa Chapter; and
- c) To arrange meetings in Johannesburg, Malawi, Mozambique and Durban to enrol and familiarize the Community to the WMO.

This Region had donated approximately US\$100,000 to the WMO Pakistan towards the earthquake. Further sums of R1.5 million had been donated to the Ambassador of Pakistan in South Africa, who expressed his appreciation. There appears to have a lot of potential for the WMO in Africa with patience to mature and grow. They feel a need for separating the Southern Region and Central Region as communication and meetings are difficult.

They have enrolled 5 Trustees, 13 Patrons and approx 60 Life Members. This Chapter has undertaken the work of Census in the Southern Africa Region, exploring the possibility of publishing a Memon Business Directory, establishing a Memon Community Centre to be known as "WMO Centre" in Laudium, South Africa. At the end of 2006 the Africa Chapter had a credit balance of nearly R1.500,000 in the HBZ Bank in Laudium, South Africa. All relevant documents have already been submitted to concerned authorities to have the WMO registered as public benefit organisation.

Mr. Kadeer Kalla, a prominent member of the S.A. Memon Association has been employed by the WMO Africa Region to assist with the running of the local affairs of the WMO.

11. Europe Region:

This Region has always been in the forefront on the Fund raising for almost all the WMO projects. It has continued its drive to enrol members for the WMO. Several meetings of the Board Members were held and special meetings were organised with the WMO President to discuss some important matters from time to time. The Memon Association UK has set up a Marriage Introduction Service called 'Memon Connections' on its website and this has now been linked to the WMO website, the results of which are most encouraging, by the Grace of Allah (SWT).

The Region has enrolled a total of 4 Trustees, 1 Patron and 45 Life Members. During February 2007, a three day visit to Lisbon, Portugal was organised, from which 2 new trustees, 1 Patron and 15 Life Members are expected. This Region will go from strength to strength in the Europe.

12. Far East Chapter:

During May 2006, the new BoM of Sri Lanka had hosted the fourth WMO Conference and AGM in Colombo. They have been successful in organising membership campaign, youth committee, medical camp and ladies wing. Currently their membership comprises of 4 Trustees, 1 Patron, 24 Life Members and 30 Ordinary Members.

We congratulate this Chapter for its successful registration with the concerned authorities of Sri Lanka on 12th December 2006. The Bank Account has been opened with Citi Bank. Subscription in the sum of US\$120,000 was collected and banked in the WMO account.

13. North America Region:

It was heartening to note that the WMO North America has been registered as a California Corporation and also Federal Tax Exempt Number 59-3839139 was received on the 7th March 2007. We sincerely congratulate and compliment the efforts of Mr. Yousuf Tar, VP of that Region. The USA team would now be able to appoint officers for this Region and carry out some important charitable work for the Memon community.

Arrangements were in hand to open a local bank account so that members' subscription and other donations can be deposited into this account. We will have the pleasure of obtaining more details from Mr. Tar at the BoM meeting of the 13th April 2007, insha'Allah.

14. The WMO Magazine:

Our first and foremost Magazine has now been published to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the WMO. In this special issue we have been able to publish the details of five glorious years of the existence of our umbrella body. Various articles on important subjects as well as Memons Identity and detailed information on all the seven regions have been included together with the Statutory Documents of the WMO and WMOCF. I hope and pray that this publication meets with your expectation, insha'Allah.

15. 5th Annual General Assembly Meeting:

It has been agreed that the next Annual General Assembly Meeting of the WMO will be held in Karachi on 14th April 2007. This is expected to be a Mega Event for creating awareness of the WMO among the masses and to give an impetus to the causes of this international body of the entire Memon community, insha'Allah. The arrangements are going on in a big way to celebrate this important event of the 5th Annual General Assembly.

16. Conclusion and Thanks:

I wish to sincerely thank our Pakistan Chapter for making extremely good arrangements in organising the event with the co-operation of our Apex Body, All Pakistan Memon Federation, who have organised an Exhibition for the Memon community on a very large scale, which would receive attention of all our members who have arrived here from all over the world. May I also thank all the WMO Members, Board Members and WMOCF Trustees for their continued support and co-operation in this noble cause of humanity and community work. May Allah (SWT) ease our task and grant us success in our Mission. Aa'meen.

May Allah (SWT) bless you all, Aa'meen.

Was' Salaam.

ABBA ALI YOUSUF
Secretary General – WMO.
Karachi: 12th April 2007.