

Hijman Degen Foundation: Annual report 2009

Members of the board on January 1, 2009:

Drs. (M.D., psychiatrist) J. Lansen, chairman

Mrs. M. Bous-Vocking, secretary

Drs. (Doctor of Science) W. Grijpma, treasurer

Mr. (Doctor of Law) O. Sollewijn Gelpke-Meijer, member

W. van den Broek, member

Advisors

Cor de Bode, psychotherapist

Fiety Meijer-Degen, art therapist

Jaap Orth, music therapist

Marlies Mannesse, drama therapist

Marijke Rutten-Saris, art therapist

Changes in the Board:

Mr T. van Popta sadly passed away and was succeeded by Mrs. Bous- Vocking as secretary.

Mr. W. Grijpma resigned during the year as treasurer owing to considerations of health and was succeeded by Mr. W. van den Broek. In May 2009 ms M. Muthert, art therapist joined the board.

Executive committee:

This is constituted by the president, secretary and treasurer and ms. M. Muthert. The board and the advisors met twice during the year, whereas the executive committee had five meetings.

Publicity:

The website is an important medium for the purpose of making people acquainted with the foundation. We have been working hard on improving the website, keeping our readers informed about our range of activities and also on making it more accessible. We prefer the English version of the website as the field of our work is mainly international. We also made our brochure in English.

Financial strains:

In order to realize our work we are dependent on funding. The Hijman Degen Foundation has no standard revenues. Therefore many Dutch organizations have been approached with requests for funding training projects and a new edition of the training manual. However, the effects of the international credit crisis have not passed by the Netherlands. For the moment finding money for training projects is not easy.

Training manual:

The training manual, written by Mrs. Fiety Meijer, one of our professional advisers is sold out. We decided that this should be a good moment to extend the manual. From Feedback we know that there is a need for that. At the moment two of our advisers are working on an additional two chapters, one on music therapy and one on drama therapy. Requests for training manuals mainly come from Organizations in the field of psychosocial care in second- and third world countries. At each request we consider if the applying organization can pay or not. If not, we can decide to send it free of charge, depending on the need for training of the applicant.

Exchange with other organizations: In 2009 we were in contact with the University of Arnhem/Nijmegen, Impulsis, the University of Nürtingen (Germany), the War Trauma Foundation, Wings of Hope and IRCT (Copenhagen). In November 2009 our president Mr. Johan Lansen was elected as independent member in the international council of IRCT, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims.

At the conference of the Dutch-Flemish association for psychotrauma (18th November 2009, Amsterdam) the president of the Hijman Degen Stichting and one of the advisers held a presentation "When words are not sufficient".

During 2009 we received again several requests for training in Africa and Asia. From a few funds we received financial support, which will most probably be spent on an extended training project in Bangladesh in 2010.

By means of our facilitating work a trainer could be found for training in art therapy in Lebanon for psychologist, psychiatrist and social workers from **IRAQ**. The training was supported by IRCT and financed by EC/UNOPS.