1. OVERVIEW OF AFAD’s SITUATION

The year 2005 ended with AFAD’s deep sense of fulfillment due to the approval of the text of United Nations Draft International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Together with other organizations of families of the disappeared, AFAD celebrates the well-deserved collective victory. It was the greatest achievement of the international movement against involuntary disappearances of which AFAD is an integral part.

For the Asian families of the disappeared, there can be no other apt response to the continuing phenomena of enforced or involuntary disappearances in the region than the approval of the Convention’s text by the United Nations intersessional open-ended Working Group to draft a Legally-Binding Normative Instrument for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. AFAD, who bore the brunt of persecution of its own human rights defenders, continues to work in the context of Asia’s intensifying human rights violations.

The approval of the final text of the Convention on Disappearances is indeed, an apt response to the continuing phenomena of enforced or involuntary disappearances in the Asian region in the year 2005, which did not have much difference from the situation in the previous years. As a matter of fact, Asian countries submitted the highest number of cases to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID), with Nepal on top of the list. This situation urged the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to meet for the first time in Asia, particularly in Bangkok, Thailand. Such session, done for the first time in Asia, was attended by all AFAD members who had both a collective and individual meetings with the working group for the purpose of submitting cases and general situations related to the theme of involuntary disappearances.

This situation, confirmed by the report of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and coupled with the fact that in Asia, there are no existing human rights mechanisms of protection, had
convinced many member-states of the United Nations to unanimously approve the final text – a victory which has been unprecedented in the history of the global struggle against disappearances. Moreover, AFAD’s consistent presence at the United Nations in Geneva and its active interventions during the sessions has destroyed the myth which Asian governments would have wanted to prevail – that enforced disappearances are solely a Latin American phenomena which are not, accordingly, a continuing situation.

Organizationally, AFAD still remained to be a Federation of eight member-organizations and with a skeletal secretariat. Towards the end of the year, however, the Secretariat was beefed up with two additional full time workers for Campaign and Public Information Work and for the AFAD Resource Center. One major development towards the third and fourth quarters of 2006 was the commitment of support from other funding agencies for specific projects, e.g. Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst of Germany, OAK Foundation based in Geneva and London with an international office in the US, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and The Royal Netherlands Embassy and PSO-The Netherlands. This had allowed the AFAD Council to decide the expansion of the secretariat, which is to include one full time worker in each of three priority countries and one part time worker in one country.

The Participatory, Capacity-Building Evaluation, which was realized in July-August last year through the generous support of HIVOS and PSO-The Netherlands marked a new stage in the history of the Federation. It allowed AFAD member-organizations to look into its own accomplishments – both the organic and political outcomes as well as failures. The professional expertise of the two evaluators hired by HIVOS helped AFAD trace its history, identify its outcomes and outputs, come up with concrete recommendations and sharpen its analysis of the work of the Federation since the beginning of its existence. Such would then serve as a concrete basis for planning this year and in the years to come.

What has AFAD done during the year in order to concretize the three components of its work, e.g. lobby; campaign and public information; solidarity? Administratively, what was the situation that contributed to and/or hindered the Federation’s attainment of its mission, vision and goals?

11. ACCOMPLISHMENTS PER COMPONENT OF WORK

A. International Lobby

AFAD, together with its sister-federations and organizations, declared 2005 as the year of the Convention. Lobbying for the Convention has been AFAD’s central task for 2005. Thus, the Federation’s time and resources were allotted to
lobbying efforts. All the other efforts complemented the attainment of the central objective.

a. **Participation in the 61st Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March-April 2005** - AFAD, through its Secretary-General, participated in the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights held in March - April 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was an opportunity to reiterate, in an oral intervention and direct lobbying with governments, the alarming phenomena of enforced or involuntary disappearances in Asia and the Federation's appeal on all governments to support the draft convention. It was also an opportunity to present to the international community AFAD’s video production and book entitled, “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars.”

b. **Lobby Training and Participation in the 75th Session of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and other related activities** - On the occasion of the 75th session of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID) held in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2005, AFAD, in cooperation with Linking Solidarity and PSO organized a Training Seminar on the Imperative of a Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The training was given by Ms. Gabriella Citroni, a delegate of the Italian government to the Inter-Sessional Open-Ended Working Group to Draft a Legally-Binding Normative Instrument for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The training enabled the AFAD Council members to discuss the substance of the Convention in relation to the different situations on disappearances in their respective countries and to come up with unified positions on various issues related to the convention.

In between sessions during the training, the AFAD member-organizations and its Secretary-General took turns in presenting individual cases and general situations to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. These cases were submitted directly to the Working Group prior to the 75th session. Such venues to meet the UNWGEID had enabled AFAD member-organizations to clarify matters related to cases submitted and on the former’s working methods.

The UNWGEID also gave AFAD one hour to present its video documentary, entitled “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars.”

AFAD members also joined Forum Asia and other Bangkok-based NGOs in discussing the UNWGEID’s methods of work and areas of improving cooperation.
Actual lobbying efforts with the Thai Senate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were collectively done as well after all the other activities were done. While the Senate was accommodating to AFAD members and friends, the Foreign Office was not at all encouraging. But the minimum request of AFAD for the Thai delegation to be present in Geneva was responded to, although the Thai delegate did not say anything during the September 2005 session.

c. **Asian Lobby Tour** - To put into immediate action the knowledge acquired from the training, the AFAD Council decided to conduct an Asian lobby tour. Similar to the European tour held in November 2004, the Asian tour was intended to visit government offices, foreign embassies and strategic NGOs in selected Asian countries, e.g. Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Held on the last week of July to the first week of August, the tour was conducted by AFAD Secretary-General, Aileen Bacalso; IKOHI Chairperson, Mugiyanto; OPFMD Legal Adviser Kumarage. In the Philippines where both FIND and the AFAD Secretariat are based, FIND Secretary-General Louie Crismo and the AFAD Secretary-General tried their best to convince the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Convention. The tour enabled AFAD to present to the above-mentioned government authorities its appeal for support.

The Asian tour resulted in a promise by the Sri Lankan government, through its former Prime Minister and now president of the country, to support the Convention. The rest of the governments, except the Philippines, were present during the final session of the United Nations Inter-sessional Open-ended Working Group to Elaborate a Legally-Binding Normative Instrument for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Thailand maintained a silent position, while Indonesia, which is presently the Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, was not supportive, to say the least. Despite efforts to invite the Philippine delegation, it was absent during the final session. While AFAD could only do so much in terms of convincing Asian states to support the convention, it hopes that Asian governments will eventually support the Convention or at least, not oppose it.

d. **Solidarity Concert, entitled “Seeking” held on August 30, 2005 in Manila, Philippines** - Another resolution of the said Training Seminar is to create public awareness by holding a concert. Indeed, on the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared on August 30, 2005, the envisioned Solidarity Concert, with a theme, “Seeking,” was organized by AFAD. Performed in the context of enforced or involuntary disappearances in Asia and the imperative of an international treaty, popular and progressive Philippine artists sang songs that depict the day-to-day situation of the families of the disappeared. About seven hundred
people joined the concert. An AFAD theme song, entitled *Desaparecidos* was launched.

e. **Participation in two sessions of the inter-sessional open-ended Working Group to Elaborate a Draft Legally-Binding Normative Instrument for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held in Geneva in February and September 2005** - Ever-consistent in following the sessions of the Inter-sessional Open-ended Working Group to Elaborate a Draft Legally-Binding Normative Instrument for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, AFAD attended both sessions – in January and September. Through its Secretary-General and during the final session, with the presence of its member-organizations from India (Kashmir), Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, AFAD echoed the voice of the families of the disappeared through its active participation during the sessions and ensuring that provisions of the draft treaty would not contradict the very purpose of the international instrument.

AFAD witnessed the long-awaited victory, which is the approval of the text of the United Nations Draft Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. It has proven that its consistent presence and active participation in all the sessions of the Working Group for the Draft Convention has shattered the myth propagated by not-so-friendly governments that enforced or involuntary disappearance is a past issue that solely belongs to Latin America. It has helped convinced governments of the need for an international legally-binding instrument to protect people from the despicable crime.

f. **Support for the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Bill in the Philippines**

Corollary to the efforts to achieve an international covenant is the local lobbying of AFAD in the Philippines so that the present bill criminalizing enforced disappearances will finally be enacted into law. AFAD had been present in many meetings in the Philippine House of Representatives to discuss and finalize the text. Already, the final version of the proposed law was approved by the Technical Working Group of the House of Representatives. Efforts in the Senate will still have to be stepped up in order to give birth to a national law.

g. **Lobbying with the Diplomatic Community in the Philippines and other countries** - The AFAD Secretariat continues to relate with the diplomatic community by responding to its invitations for participation to their different functions. It has attended functions of embassies based in
Manila, e.g. Royal Netherlands Embassy, Swiss Embassy, French Embassy, Canadian Embassy and the European Union.

AFAD member-organizations, to a limited extent, are also doing the same with their foreign embassies in their respective capitals.

**B. Campaign and Public Information**

To complement the work of lobbying, AFAD simultaneously carried out its campaign and public information work. This component of work is considered to be the voice of AFAD. AFAD’s main contribution to the struggle against disappearances in Asia is projecting this at all levels, e.g. nationally, regionally and internationally.

1. **Launching of the AFAD-Book, entitled “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars on February 28, 2005 in Manila, Philippines** - in the first quarter of the year, in the month of February, AFAD launched its second book, entitled “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars.” Funded by the Swiss Embassy in Manila, the book contains testimonies of family members of the disappeared in Asia and in other continents who attended the First Sharing of Experiences of Asian Families of the Disappeared held in Jakarta, Indonesia in December 2004. The book was distributed to government delegations at the UN; foreign embassies based in different Asian countries; government agencies, NGOs, families of the disappeared, etc. The Embassy of Switzerland in Manila commented that its partnership with AFAD vis-à-vis the book project was excellent.

2. **Launching of AFAD’s Video Production, also entitled “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars” on February 28, 2005 in Manila, Philippines** - Funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the video production was also launched on February 28, 2005 in order to present moving images of family members of the disappeared who attended the Jakarta Conference and to depict the commonality of the pain and struggle of the families of the disappeared world-wide. The video was presented at the United Nations in Geneva and Bangkok and in The Netherlands. It will continue to serve as a material to project both the issue of enforced or involuntary disappearances and AFAD as a Federation.

3. **Bi-annual Release of AFAD’s publication, The Voice** - Its bi-annual publication, The Voice has consistently been released twice during the year. It served as the voice of the Federation. Almost 100 percent of the copies were distributed to people interested in the issue and other sectors of society. It has received good feedbacks from interested readers from different countries. The AFAD Secretariat, however, believes that much remains to be improved on the quality of the publication.
4. **Commemoration of the first death anniversary of Aasia Jeelani in Quezon City, Philippines** - On April 20, 2005, the AFAD Secretariat, in cooperation with the local human rights community, commemorated the first death anniversary of Aasia Jeelani, APDP volunteer and editor of Voices Unheard who was killed in a landmine blast on April 20, 2004 in Northern Kashmir. Held in the Bantayog ng mga Bayani or Monument of Heroes, the activity was done in a form of a film presentation on the life of Aasia and a reflection session that gave tribute to the martyr.

5. **Commemoration of the first death anniversary of Munir on September 7, 2005 in front of the Indonesian embassy in Manila** - The AFAD Secretariat, also in cooperation with the local human rights community, commemorated the first death anniversary of Munir on September 7, 2005. The activity was attended by representatives of different NGOs and staff members of FIND. In an earlier press conference, together with KontraS and IKOHI, AFAD announced that it would hold simultaneous pickets in front of the Indonesian embassies in different countries if the case of Munir would not have been resolved. Indeed, on that day, simultaneous activities to protest against the Indonesian government’s utter failure to resolve the case were held in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. A statement was issued to this effect.

It was the second picket held by the AFAD Secretariat, in cooperation with the local human rights community to press the Indonesian government to officially respond to the call for the resolution of the case. The first was held in March 2005 while the 61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights was on-going in Geneva and was chaired by the Indonesian government. In both occasions, the embassy did not respond.

6. **Commemoration of AFAD’s 7th anniversary held on June 4, 2005, Manila, Philippines** - On June 4, 2005, the AFAD Secretariat commemorated AFAD’s 7th anniversary in a liturgical celebration held at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani. The commemoration was done in a form of a liturgical celebration and attended by representatives of The Royal Netherlands Embassy, the Swiss Embassy in Manila, representatives of the local human rights community and members of FIND.

Throughout the year, AFAD issued statements both to commemorate traditional events and to respond to specific cases related to enforced disappearances.

7. **Preparation for the establishment of a Resource Center in honor of Munir and Aasia Jeelani** - A major initiative of AFAD in the aspect of public information is the establishment of a resource center for Munir.
Funded by The Royal Netherlands Embassy, the construction of the resource center and the acquisition of materials for the Resource Center is going on in an additional office space rented by the Federation in the same building of the Philippine Social Science Center. The center is expected to be launched in May 2006.

8. **Conscious updating of AFAD’s website** – AFAD’s website had been regularly updated towards the second half of the year. AFAD was able to finally find a person who updates the website regularly.

C. **International Solidarity**

1. **Tsunami funds** - The AFAD Secretariat managed to solicit about Four Thousand US dollars from local sources in the Philippines for victims of the Tsunami disaster, particularly families of the disappeared in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The Organization of Parents and Family Members of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka reported to have given small educational assistance grants to children of the disappeared who were victimized by Tsunami. KontraS and IKOHI of Indonesia also reported that they used the funds to buy sacks of rice for the poor and hungry victims and to buy Koran to be used by the victims’ for their spiritual needs.

2. **National conferences on Rehabilitation as Echo of the First Sharing of Experiences of Asian Families of the Disappeared** - AFAD’s main effort during the year in the aspect of regional solidarity is the series of national conferences to echo the First Sharing of Experiences of Asian Families of the Disappeared, with the theme, “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars.” These were serious efforts at empowering families of the disappeared and instilling in them the global phenomena of enforced disappearances and the importance of international solidarity. These activities were already conducted in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia and are expected to be duplicated in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Kashmir in 2006. These activities were participated in by about 30-40 families per country and were very much appreciated by the participants. The envisioned follow-up in the next period after all these series of national conferences shall have been conducted are empowerment for the healers – developing local healers of para-counselors who can respond to the greater needs of the majority of the families of the disappeared in their respective countries. To note, in the first half of 2006,

3. **Start of the Implementation of the Scholarship Fund** - To respond a bit to the economic dislocation brought about by the loss of their loved ones, preparations for the continuation of the
scholarship program in Kashmir and a start of a scholarship program in Indonesia are on-going. These efforts are made possible through the support of OAK Foundation. The rest of the countries will also be able to avail of the same scholarship fund for 2006.

4. **AFAD Expansion** - To expand itself, AFAD is starting its groundwork to expand its network to Nepal, the country which has the highest number of cases of disappearances. Mugiyanto, AFAD Council member from Indonesia is scheduled to visit Nepal in April 2006. AFAD is also planning to expand to other priority countries, e.g. Afghanistan, Burma, East Timor within the year 2006. It is one of the strong recommendations of the evaluators and of HIVOS in the result of the Participatory Capacity Building Evaluation Program conducted in 2005.

5. **Cooperation with similar federation/formation in other continents** - In the international level, AFAD continues its cooperation with FEDEFAM and recently with an organization called, We Remember in Belarus. AFAD also continues to cooperate with Linking Solidarity in the aspect of Capacity-Building activities. In December 2006, AFAD participated in the joint meeting with FEDEFAM called for by Linking Solidarity.

6. **Participation in activities called for by other organizations concerned with the issue of enforced disappearances** –

**Human Rights Conference called for the May 18 Foundation in December 2005**

In solidarity with other organizations working on the issue of enforced disappearances, AFAD responds to invitations for participation in international conferences. The May 18 Memorial Foundation invited the AFAD Secretary-General to attend an international human rights conference to be held in Gwangju, South Korea on December 7-10, 2005.

**Conference on Transitional Justice held in Bosnia, Herzegovina in December 2005**

Also in December 2006, AFAD was represented by Mr. K.D.C. Kumarage in an International Conference on Transnational Justice to be held in Bosnia, Herzegovina.

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
1. **Participatory Capacity Building Evaluation** - After seven years of working for the cause of the disappeared, AFAD takes a serious look of its own outputs as well as outcomes, both organic and political in order to harness further its strengths in facing the increasing challenges of the work against disappearances in particular and human rights work in general. Concretely, it conducted a Participatory Evaluation, the result of which enabled the Federation to appreciate its capacities and potentials concretized into outputs and outcomes.

2. **Leadership matters** - The vacuum of the absence of a Chairperson caused by the murder of Munir never deterred the Federation from fulfilling the tasks it professes to do for the sake of the disappeared and their families. While opting not to elect a new Chairperson until the next Congress in 2006, the AFAD Council agreed to exercise collective leadership in order to support the leadership of the Secretary-General.

   The AFAD Council took serious effort to improve communication with a minimum cost by holding series of electronic conferences using yahoo messenger. But it is important to note that this should not deter the AFAD member-organizations from using email as a means of updating each other and improving bilateral communication not just between the members and the AFAD secretariat, but also among members, themselves.

3. **Funding** - Significant to note is that AFAD received positive responses for funding for different projects from OAK Foundation, *Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst* (EED), United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Manila. HIVOS, AFAD’s principal source of funds, agreed to give funds for the Federation for the next four years – one year bridge fund for 2006 and three years for 2007-2009.

4. **Transfer of office** - In view of the establishment of a Resource Center in honor of Munir and other martyrs, and owing to the increasing demands of the work, AFAD moved to a bigger space in the Philippine Social Science Center Building. From Room 316, it moved to Rooms 310-311 of the same building.

   The AFAD Secretariat is beefed up with the hiring of a new full time Campaign Officer who already started working in November. A new Librarian to manage the AFAD Resource Center started working in January.

5. **Systematization of Secretariat Work** – Towards the end of the year, the AFAD Secretary-General took the initiative of consulting with a
Organizational Development expert for the purpose of ensuring the secretariat’s implementation of the recommendations of the Participatory Evaluation. This is especially so that at the beginning of 2006, the number of Secretariat members was expected to double with the hiring of a full time librarian and the change of status from part time to full time of the person in charge of finances.

111. **SWOT ANALYSIS**

In the absence of a Council Meeting at the beginning of the year, the AFAD Secretariat analyzed the major strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats based on the outputs above-mentioned. The process of SWOT analysis was done not only to for the purpose of coming up with recommendations to improve the work, but also for the purpose of familiarizing the new members of the secretariat about the work of AFAD.

Thus, the major strengths identified are as follows:

**Strengths:**

1. **Lobbying** - The fruit of lobbying could concretely be seen in the approval of the final text of the United Nations Draft Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. AFAD, for certain, contributed to this through its consistent presence at the United Nations and its active participation. Moreover, its lobbying in the national and regional levels contributed, in one way or another, to this great success.

2. **Solidarity** – The fact that AFAD was able to maintain its unity and cooperate with *FEDEFAM*, Belarus and Linking Solidarity, etc. is a sign of strength because the cooperation has strengthened its lobbying work.

One very important strength of the Federation is its capacity to respond, to a certain extent, to the needs of the family members of the disappeared for rehabilitation through its series of national rehabilitation conferences that were really appreciated by the participants. This is a concrete response to the on-going psychological and emotional trauma brought about by the loss of their loved ones.

Another strength that AFAD had during the period was its capacity to respond, however in a limited sense, to the effect of natural disasters that victimized families of the disappeared, e.g. through the Tsunami
fund for Indonesia and Sri Lanka and the small aid given to the families of the disappeared in Pakistan who were victimized by the earthquake.

3. Campaign and Public Information – In the aspect of Campaign and Public Information, AFAD continued to project the phenomena of enforced or involuntary disappearances in Asia through the cases and reports on general situations it submitted to the UNWGEID, its statements on issues related to disappearances, its presence in conferences related to disappearances, its website and the regular and timely releases of its publications, The Voice.

Based on the secretariat’s analysis, this projection of the phenomena of enforced disappearances is the first level of contribution that AFAD is giving to the campaign against enforced or involuntary disappearances and against impunity. This is very important to generate moral, material and political support.

Aware of the important elements of the campaign for justice, which includes truth, justice, redress and the recuperation of the historical memory of the disappeared, AFAD believes that it still has to achieve the other elements needed. So far, while some of its members are in the course of exhuming remains of missing persons and filing cases in courts, AFAD has not yet reached the level wherein it has achieved the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators. The indemnification of families of the disappeared through court decisions has not yet been achieved in Asia. These are the important components of campaign work which AFAD has to still learn from its Latin American counterpart.

The aspect of recuperating the historical memory of the disappeared is, in one way or another, already being done by AFAD. The establishment of monuments for the disappeared in some countries, e.g. Kashmir, through the initiative of APDP; Philippines, through the initiative of FIND; Sri Lanka through the initiative of the government and the support of organizations concerned with disappearances; and Thailand (still to be built), through the pressure of the Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes – all these are part of the on-going efforts to recuperate the historical memory of the disappeared.

4. Administration and Finance

In the aspect of administration and finance, one strength of AFAD is that despite the limited financial and human resources that AFAD had last year, it was able to produce the output more than commensurate to the amount spent. Human resources, both paid and voluntary, were able to do the multiple tasks of actualizing the above-mentioned outputs.
One strength that AFAD had in the past year was its ability to get the commitment of donor-organizations to fund specific programs which will very much help AFAD in responding fully to the comprehensive demands of its work.

WEAKNESSES

1. **LOBBY** - One major weakness of lobby work is the difficulty of the AFAD member-organizations to do consistent and sustained lobbying in between meetings and joint lobbying work. This is so because of their limited human and material resources and the fact that they are also engrossed with their national needs. This weakness results in the loss of momentum, which is really not helpful to the general lobby work of the Federation.

2. **SOLIDARITY** – One weakness of solidarity within AFAD is that the internal problem (APDP-FIND; AFAD-FIND) that wracked AFAD remains unresolved. While AFAD members continue to work together despite this problem, when this issue is discussed, it would create a very negative atmosphere. And besides, whether AFAD likes it or not, the problems manifest in many ways from time to time.

   Inter-continental cooperation, while generally good, has its own problems, too. The relationship with Linking Solidarity remains to be improved. More creative ways of relating with FEDEFAM have also to be explored in order to maximize sharing of situations and experiences in the work against disappearances. This could still be further enriched, aside from the present joint lobbying work that is being done.

   The direct assistance activities to the families should ideally be for a three-fold purpose – immediate relief to economic dislocation; rehabilitation and conscientization and organizing. While this task principally belongs to the AFAD member-organization, a certain level is being done by AFAD. The aspect of conscientization and organizing remains to be done by AFAD in order for the families of the disappeared to understand the Asian context of the disappearance of their loved ones and to imbibe in them the spirit of regional and international solidarity is important.

3. **CAMPAIGN AND PUBLIC INFORMATION**
As mentioned earlier, AFAD, at the moment, remains in the level of doing projection work in the whole gamut of campaign for truth, justice, redress and recuperation of the historical memory of the disappeared.

There are many impediments to the campaign for truth, justice, redress. For instance, in the search of disappeared persons, through exhumations if the disappeared were already killed, there are restrictions, e.g. Sri Lankan government does not allow any exhumation without any court decision; Kashmiri families of the disappeared believe that exhumations desecrate the dead. These legal and cultural problems have impeded the process of searching for the truth. Legally, there are no domestic laws criminalizing enforced disappearances and there are no regional mechanisms for protection. Moreover, there is a tendency that once a family member of the disappeared has received minimal financial assistance, they won't anymore pursue any justice campaign because of the feeling of helplessness, considering that most of them are poor.

AFAD and its member-organizations have still to pursue the cause of justice, redress and reparation in its most concrete forms. This is presently a limitation that AFAD has not yet reached this level, but it becomes a weakness when AFAD and its member-organizations would just be contented with the present level of struggle it has reached without trying all means possible to go beyond what it has, to a limited extent, achieved.

3. **Administration and Finance**

Considering the bulk of work of AFAD, the human and financial resources last year were very limited. This was a weakness, although it did not prevent AFAD from doing its tasks. However, while financial cost was less last year, the human cost of the then existing human resources was expensive, causing the limited number of people to be overstretched. This has always been the situation since AFAD’s until last year.

With the present funding from different other sources which were committed towards the latter part of 2005, it was certain that the situation would then be quantitatively and qualitatively changed in 2006 and hopefully in the years to come.
IV. STRUCTURE OF AFAD AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Below is AFAD’s organizational structure:

As per AFAD Constitution and By-Laws, the structure of AFAD remains almost the same as when it was first established. The only additional box within the structure is the Executive Council, which is composed of the Chairperson, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer.
The Congress, which is convened every three years, remains to be the highest policy making body of the Federation. It is composed of 2 delegates each from member-organizations and the officers of the Federation. It approves the Three-Year Plan of Action of the Federation and elects the officers of the Federation.

The Council, which regularly meets annually, approves the annual plan of the Federation based on the Three-Year Plan and approves the annual budget. It is the highest policy-making body in between Congresses.

The Secretariat, which is based in the Philippines, serves as the center for service and coordination.

The member-organizations get their guidance from the Council. They are independent organizations but they are united under the mandate of the Federation which is written in AFAD’s basic documents, e.g. Orientation, Constitution and By-Laws. They implement the plans of the AFAD Council in their respective countries.

Except for the AFAD Secretariat members who are paid for their full time and/or part time services, the rest of the people working for AFAD are volunteers. It is because of this situation that the bulk of the work goes to the Secretariat members who strive to make sure that all unities of both the Congress and the Council are implemented. Ideally, there should be, at least one person in each member-organization, who can concentrate on the work of ensuring the implementation of the AFAD plan by its respective member-organization. It is hoped to be realized during the first half of 2006, with the funding coming from EED.

As mentioned in the Participatory, Capacity-Building Evaluation, the planning process has much to be improved. While ideally, the Congress should be doing the long-term plan, but then, for instance, in the Second Congress, everybody just put his/her idea during the meeting hurriedly and the Secretary-General, instead of the Congress, took the effort of systematizing the ideas brought upon by the Congress. The collective discussion which could have been necessary to ensure the correctness of the intervention and to ensure implementation was very limited. The same is true in the Council level considering the time limitation of the Council members and the fact that the Council always had many other agenda. Moreover, during Council meetings, other activities are done to make full use of the Council members’ opportunity to be together, which is really rare considering the expenses entailed.
It is the AFAD Council, through its Secretary-General, who monitors the general performance of the program and the financial status of the Federation. The AFAD Council, through the Secretary-General’s regular reports both presented by email and during meetings, looks into the status of the Federation and decides on areas of improvement.

V. IMPACT ON THE BENEFICIARIES AND THEIR LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

AFAD has not really conducted any research, so far, on the impact of its programs on the beneficiaries. As a matter of fact, the AFAD Secretary-General would have wanted this aspect to be incorporated in the Terms of Reference of the Participatory Evaluation, but the evaluator, Mr. Ricardo Wilson-Grau said that it was not possible given the limited time and resources.

But while there is no survey on the impact of the AFAD programs on the beneficiaries, AFAD firmly believes that its programs and services are really important to the beneficiaries. So far, of the activities conducted which gathered feedback from the beneficiaries, the most appreciated was the First Sharing of Experiences of Asian Families of the Disappeared which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in December 2004. This was followed up by series of national rehabilitation conferences. All the participants who attended the said activities very well appreciated the very positive effects those activities had on their lives.

Another measurable impact is the very well appreciated direct assistance program, e.g. minimal financial assistance to victims of Tsunami and scholarship program implemented initially by some member-organizations.

The families’ full appreciation of AFAD’s Campaign and Public Information work, I believe, needs a certain process for it to be achieved. For which reason, it is mentioned earlier in this report, that there is a need for on-going conscientization to be done by AFAD. This will not only serve the purpose of contextualizing the families of the disappeared on the human rights situation in Asia, but also making them appreciate the work that AFAD is doing. In so doing, their participation to the work of AFAD will be increased if they are fully convinced of the positive effects of the work to their lives in their continuing search for truth, justice, redress and the recuperation of the historical memory of the disappeared.

The beneficiaries’ level of participation has still to be increased. Families of the disappeared in different participate in the activities that AFAD organized. But the level of participation is through attendance in
activities. Active participation in planning, for instance, is limited. What is really very important to achieve is

**V1. MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The membership of AFAD remains to be eight. There has been no significant increase since 2003 because of the limited resources of the Federation. As a matter of fact, the membership of the Tiananmen Mothers is still questionable. For already more than a year, AFAD does not have any communication with the Tiananmen Mothers. This is due to the fact that the Tiananmen Mothers Campaign Group, who used to play the intermediary role between AFAD and the Tiananmen Mothers in China, resigned both due to communication and security problems.

But already in 2005, the AFAD Council decided to actively recruit new members to the Federation. Areas of expansion include Burma, East Timor, Afghanistan and Nepal. On-going coordination with local groups in Nepal is being done to prepare their participation to the work of AFAD. This is especially important considering that it is in Nepal where the highest number of cases was submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Membership dues are automatically deducted from reimbursements during meetings. But the amount of the annual membership fee, which is only Fifty US dollars per organization, is really very minimal compared to the Federation’s expenses. The idea of increasing the amount significantly has been met with a bit of resistance from members also because of the limited resources of member-organizations.