



ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS – THAILAND

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (JULY 2021 to JUNE 2022)

10 June 2022

1. Executive Board of AFICS-THAILAND (AFICS-T)

1 The current Executive Board of AFICS-T was elected at the Nineteenth Annual General Assembly on 26 July 2019 and comprises the following officers:

1. President	Mr. Suraphon Songweera
2. First Vice-President	Mr. Ti Le-Huu
3. Second Vice-President	Mr. Suraphong Chuachamsai
4. Secretary	Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda
5. Deputy Secretary	Ms. Chitraporn Boonyasit
6. Treasurer	Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing
7. Deputy Treasurer	Ms. Uraivan Siriwatananukul
8. Registrar	Ms. Onanong Panyajaray
9. Communications Officer	Ms. Vena Visaruitawongse
10. Web Master	Mr. Somkhon Antanai
11. Deputy Web Master	Mr. Vijju Kasayapanandha

Members:

12. Mr. Somchai Congtavinsutti
13. Ms. Junpen Jirasavetakul
14. Mr. Peter Hegenbarth
15. Ms. Duangthip Pattraplachai
16. Ms. Metinee Hunkosol
17. Ms. Sumetee Jongmu
18. Ms. Pagapunt Aneknidhi
19. Ms. Siraprapha Khomson

Advisers:

20. Mr. Vudhithep Tanghongse
21. Mr. Yossuwan Anandhwanlert
22. Mr. Jan Orsini

Medical Adviser

23. Dr. Surachai Vichankaiyakij

2. On 19 May 2022, Mr. Chingchai Likitnukul informed the Executive Board that effective 1 July 2021 he withdrew from the Executive Board thus relinquishing his position of Advisor to the Board as well as all other positions he held in Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

3. Due to the restrictions imposed on the UNCC facilities by Covid-19 pandemic situation the 21st Annual General Assembly (AGA), which was expected to elect a new Executive Board for the period 2021-2023, could not be convened and thus the required election could not be conducted. Therefore, after consultation with AFICS-T membership, and in order to maintain vital functions of the Association, e.g., the collection and dispatch of CEs (amounting to 243), the identification and whereabouts of members (amounting to 27 during the 2021 CE exercise) who failed to submit their CEs within the deadline and were in danger of losing their pension benefits, the establishment of contacts with the new Director, Division of Administration of ESCAP, it was decided to extend the tenure of the current Executive Board 2019-2021 until such time when an AGA could be convened physically. In this connection, since April 2022 some Covid-19 restrictions were gradually lifted and consequently UNCC facilities became available again. The current Executive Board took then the necessary steps to organize the 2022 AGA.

4. The Executive Board would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the members of the Association who had assisted the Executive Board in carrying out the functions of Duty Officer, during the reporting period, who worked remotely from home in line with imposed restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

5. The names of the Duty Officers, including those of the Executive Board members who acted as Duty Officers, during the reporting period are: *Ms. Amara Lohvithee, Ms. Apinporn Israngkul Na Ayudhya, Ms. Chiraphorn Sawalaksana, Ms. Chitraporn Boonyasit, Ms. Duanglutai Khomson, Ms. Duangthip Pattraplachai, Ms. Junpen Jirasavetakul, Ms. Metinee Hunkosol, Mr. Patanapong Siriwatananukul, Ms. Punnee Visessmith, Mr. Somkhon Antanai, Ms. Soythip Thongthua, Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing, Mr. Suraphon Songweera, Ms. Suthasinee Maruttamarn, Ms. Uraiwan Siriwatananukul, and Ms. Yupa Wongsuchat*

2. Committee and Sub-committees of AFICS-T

6. To facilitate AFICS-T Executive Board in ensuring the smooth and efficient functioning of AFICS-T toward the provision of effective and timely services to our members, the following Committees and Sub-committees were established at the second meeting of the Executive Board 2019-2021 and their compositions are as follows:

1. Committee on Pension and Group Life Insurance Benefits:

Chairperson:	Mr. Yossuwan Anandhwanlert
Members:	Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing Mr. Vudhithep Tanghongse Mr. Suraphon Songweera

Sub-Committee on CEs:

Co-Chairpersons:	Ms. Junpen Jirasavetakul Mr. Suraphong Chuachamsai
Members:	Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing Ms. Metinee Hunkosol Ms. Onanong Panyajaray

2. Committee on Medical Benefits:

Chairperson:	Mr. Yossuwan Anandhwanlert
Medical Adviser:	Dr. Surachai Vichankaiyakij

(1) Sub-Committee on Worldwide Plan (WWP):

Chairperson:	Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda
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- Members: Ms. Pagapunt Aneknidhi
Ms. Junpen Jirasavetakul
Mr. Ti Le-Huu
- (2) Sub-Committee on MIP:
Chairperson: Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing
Members: Ms. Metinee Hunkosol
Mr. Suraphong Chuachamsai
- 3. Committee on Information and Records:**
Chairperson: Mr. Somkhon Antanai
Member: Mr. Vijju Kasayapanandha
- 4. Committee on Publicity and Newsletters:**
Co-Chairpersons: Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda (English)
Mr. Somchai Congtavinsutti (Thai)
- 5. Committee on Benevolent Fund and Funerals:**
Chairperson: Ms. Metinee Hunkosol
Members: Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing
Ms. Uraiwan Siriwatananukul
- 6. Committee on Recreation and Tours:**
Chairperson: Ms. Vena Visaruitawongse
Members: Ms. Sumetee Jongmu
Ms. YupaWongsuchat
Ms. Siraprapha Khomson
Ms. Suntaree Suwannasing
Mr. Vudhithep Tanghongse
- 7. Committee on Charity Activities:**
Chairperson: Ms. Sumetee Jongmu
Members: Ms. Vena Visaruitawongse
Ms. Pagapunt Aneknidhi
Ms. YupaWongsuchat
Ms. Siraprapha Khomson
Ms. Duangthip Pattraplachai
- 8. Committee on Foreigners Living in Thailand (FLIT):**
Co-Chairpersons: Mr. Peter Hegenbarth
Mr. Ti Le-Huu
Member: Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda
Adviser: Mr. Jan Orsini

3. Membership in AFICS-T

7. The AFICS-T membership has grown steadily since the Founding Meeting, held on 26 February 2001, when there were only 87 participants. Number of memberships by year (including non paid-up members) is shown below:

<u>AGA</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Membership</u>
First Session	29 May 2001	110
Second Session	18 June 2002	153
Third Session	25 June 2003	225

Fourth Session	17 June 2004	300
Fifth Session	14 July 2005	356
Sixth Session	18 July 2006	420
Seventh Session	17 July 2007	453
Eighth Session	22 July 2008	574
Ninth Session	28 July 2009	607
Tenth Session	29 July 2010	626
Eleventh Session	09 August 2011	646
Twelfth Session	07 August 2012	701
Thirteenth Session	09 July 2013	725
Fourteenth Session	15 July 2014	742
Fifteenth Session	21 July 2015	787
Sixteenth Session	12 July 2016	762
Seventeenth Session	18 July 2017	820
Eighteenth Session	17 July 2018	826
Nineteenth Session	26 July 2019	820
Twentieth Session	Cancelled	832
Twenty-first Session	Cancelled	851

8. As of 31 May 2022, the paid-up memberships stand at 204. However, the total number of members, including those with membership fees in arrears, was 853. Since the introduction of the life membership in 2008, the Association now has 649 life members, including 145 members who are 80 years old or over, and are exempted from annual membership fees.

4. Status quo regarding the disruption of physical access to UN premises

9. As all may recall, since the first quarter of 2021, Thailand entered in the midst of a deadly third wave of Covid-19 after a year of quasi-successful containment. Accordingly, the Designated Official, in order to contain the re-emergence of the spread of Covid-19, took the decision for ESCAP premises to revert to Phase One commencing on 7 January 2021 until further notice. Under Phase One guiding principles, office access would continue to be made possible for active staff members up to 20%. Thermal screening would continue to be conducted at all access points for everyone and the use of masks would be required in common areas and physical distancing would be practiced and monitored. All meetings would be conducted remotely. In line with the above recommendation to increase the safety measures, the Board decided to keep the AFICS-T office closed until further notice.

10. Unfortunately, until now the situation has not much changed. Indeed, the access to UN premises remains still strictly controlled. In addition, parts of the building were also being renovated. However, starting in the second quarter of 2022, some restrictions have been gradually lifted such as opening of the cafeteria and the resumption of physical meetings within the UNCC facilities under certain conditions such as limited attendance of 60-80 participants in situ. There was also the possibility to organize so-called hybrid meetings with arrangements being made to accommodate additional participants online. Physical distancing and mask wearing however continue to be enforced. In view of the afore-mentioned new developments, the Board carefully considered and decided to organize the 2022 Annual General Assembly which will be convened at the UNCC.

5. Summary of Activities

11. The Executive Board is pleased to provide the following summary of activities and assistance to members, which were carried out on behalf of the Association during the period. The details are reflected in the report of the respective Committees below:

5.1 Summary of Financial Report

12. Ms. Panvipa Thammakoranonta, Auditor, has audited all accounts of AFICS-T. The audited financial statement of accounts for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 will be distributed at the 2022 Annual General Assembly.

5.2 Report on Memberships in FAFICS

13. As members may be aware, the Association sought membership in the Federation of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) in 2001, and was accepted in July of that year. Since then, AFICS-Thailand has been paying membership dues to FAFICS, on the basis of number of subscribing members as of 1 January of each year. Since the beginning of 2020, FAFICS has fixed the contribution rate at US\$2.00 per member per year. As mentioned in the previous Annual Report of the Executive Board dated 2 July 2021, the contribution for 2021 was not paid due to the absence of any request from FAFICS on this matter. Since then, FAFICS sent a communication inviting AFICS-T to pay its contributions for both 2021 and 2022. As requested AFICS-T proceeded with the payment of both contributions as follows: \$2.00 x 201 members = \$402.- for the year 2021, and \$2.00 x 211 members = \$422.- for the year 2022.

5.3 Report of the Committee on Pension and Group Life Insurance Benefits

14. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) movement, for 2022 there is an upward adjustment of 8.6 per cent in pension benefits for retirees/ beneficiaries on the US dollar track. But for those on the local Thai Baht track, there is no adjustment, since the difference in the CPI movement was not up to the 2 per cent threshold required for the benefit adjustment.

15. As we know, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) is a “defined benefit plan”. Its stakeholders include UN member states, employing organizations, participating staff, and beneficiaries. The Pension Board, consisting of UN member states, is the highest authority which reports annually to the UN General Assembly. The Pension Board, serviced by the Secretariat, used to meet once in a year, usually in July. Accepting the recommendation of auditors, the Pension Board would meet three times in 2022, one in February, another in April and the last one in July so that the Pension Board members would be updated of the development and activities of the UNJSPF. Of the three meetings, two would be held virtually and the last one in-person.

16. At its session held in April 2022, the Pension Board was informed that the UNJSPF is in a very strong financial situation, with the asset value standing at \$86 billion at the end of March 2022. On the income investment, the real rate of return at 4.27 per cent is well above the benchmark of 3.5 per cent. However, it has noted the underperformance since 2007 (15 years ago) of the fixed income investment, representing 18 per cent of the UNJSPF total assets. As such, the Pension Board was of the opinion that three external managers might be employed to work under the direction and supervision of the Fund’s team, which would be reinforced with the recruitment of four additional staff in the Office of Investment Management. Considering this being an outsourcing activity, which is not of advantage and benefit to the Fund, the Coordinating Committee for the International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) raised a petition campaign by asking Fund participants (staff members) and

beneficiaries to sign a letter to be sent to the UN Secretary-General. CCISUA managed to get some 13,000 signatures and consequently the UN Secretary General has decided to hold off implementing this initiative for three months. In the meantime, the Office of Investment Management, in keeping the commitment on transparency, would hold eight virtual information sessions, each for a duration of 30 minutes, from 31 May 2022 to 19 July 2022, on issues relating to the fixed income portfolio.

17. On the 2022 Certificate of Entitlement (CE) exercise, beneficiaries using Digital CE have been issued CEs for submission since 1 January 2022. For those on paper-based CEs, by now, some may have already received theirs. Please do the usual as required of the paper-based CEs and personally deliver your signed and dated CEs, with the usual copies, to the Office of the AFICS-T Executive Board for collectively forwarding to UNJSPF on a later date. Or, if the Covid-19 situation persists, please wait for the advice of the CE Sub-Committee on CE in that just like last year, you may be requested to submit the CEs to AFICS-T Office through mail service. Alternatively, you can either mail your CEs directly to the Fund or transmit electronically through the MSS.

18. The other option of the CE is another type of the paper-based CE in an electronic form, which can be downloaded from the Member Self Service (MSS) app. It is only applicable to retirees and beneficiaries on the US dollar-track pension system. The completed CE, i.e. after signing and dating, can be either sent electronically to the Fund, or mailed, or forwarded to the Office of the AFICS-T Executive Board for collective forwarding to the Fund.

19. The Fund, with these options, ensure that retirees/beneficiaries will have choices at their own convenience and will not be missed out in the annual CE exercise.

20. The Executive Board continued in helping pensioners and their spouses in drafting e-mail messages or letters to UNJSPF, regarding their periodic benefits, disabled child benefit, spouse benefit, two-track pension adjustment system, change of mailing address and bank accounts for pension benefit deposit, transfer of funds, birth certificates of spouses, etc.

21. Upon request, the Executive Board assisted spouses of the deceased members in approaching HRMS for the preparing and forwarding of the necessary documents to UNJSPF for the processing and conversion from “pension benefit” to “spouse benefit”, as well as group life insurance reimbursement. In this regard, pensioners are requested to check that their personal files kept by the HRMS contained the updated information. Further, it is important that the retirement number (R/....) and the UID number, which serve as the ID of retiree and is not confidential, should better be made known to their spouses and family members as well as the AFICS-T office, for ease and facilitation in dealing with UNJSPF.

22. The Executive Board would like to alert members who are eligible participants of the After Service Life Insurance (ASLI) and are interested to have confirmation on their eligibility and if desired to update their formerly designated beneficiaries by filling out a new Designation of Beneficiary Form. In this regard, it should be noted that the procedures of the UN Group Life Insurance require that matters and documentation regarding Group Life Insurance are to be handled by the human resources staff of the respective UN offices from where the retirees had separated their services.

23. AFICS-T members are kindly reminded that a “help desk” has been established in the AFICS-T office, UNCC. Members are encouraged to come and make the best use and services of the “help desk” in the AFICS-T office, run by duties officers from 9 am to 2 pm, Tuesday to Thursday. However, these facilities are only available when the AFICS-T office re-opened for services which are currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.

5.3.1 Report of the Sub-Committee on Certificate of Entitlement (CE)

24. The Sub-Committee on Certificate of Entitlement continued to assist members of AFICS-T on issues relevant to the Certificate of Entitlement (CE) and the detail of assistance provided during this reporting period is as follows:

25. **Guidelines for completing the annual CE exercise:** on 10 January 2022, the “*DCE Guide – Device Change*” was disseminated providing to Digital CE users a practical guide for those who needed to change their smartphone device and wish to continue using the “*DCE App*.” This guide also provides practical tips for taking the biometric photo which is an essential and required part of the overall DCE process.

26. **UNJSPF Pension Briefing:** on 22 April 2022, the UNJSPF Liaison Officer, Bangkok Liaison Office (BLO), Client Services and Outreach Section, presented a “Pension Briefing” to the AFICS-T Executive Board members and advisors. The focus of the presentation was on added requirement for the beneficiaries, whose pension benefits are on the “two-Track” system, which is particularly relevant to their annual CE exercise. The Two-Track benefits strictly required proof of location in addition to the signature of the beneficiaries. Consequently, beneficiaries on Two-Track benefits will not find the CE in the member Self Service (MSS) as their CE will be only mailed to the beneficiaries’ country of residence. Then the completed CE must be mailed back to the Fund from the officially registered country of residence. It cannot be uploaded to the MSS, except as an advance copy. After receipt of the original, the Fund will verify the origin of the mail and the signature/thumbprint. However, the added requirement afore-mentioned is not applicable to the Two-Track beneficiaries who opted the complete their annual CE exercise through the “Digital CE App.” as the “Digital CE App.” uses GPS data to verify location.

27. **2021 CE Exercise:** In response to the first mailing of the 2021 (paper-based) CEs by the UNJSPF, the Newsletter No.11, dated 29 July 2021, was disseminated to guide and facilitate members who wished to submit their paper-based CEs to the Fund through AFICS-T. Some 243 CEs were accordingly submitted to AFICS-T office and then dispatched to the UNJSPF on 15 September 2021. They reached the Fund on 17 September 2021.

28. The second mailing list of the 2021 (paper-based) CEs, the Sub-Committee issued the Newsletter No.12, dated 5 October 2021, providing updated information on how to handle their CEs received through the second mailing list. Consequently, AFICS-T received 39 CEs, together with 1 Proof-of-Life, 1 Request for Change of Mailing Address and 3 Letters on Non-Receipt of CE. These CEs and the above-mentioned documents were dispatched to the UNJSPF on 8 December 2021 and reached UNJSPF on 13 December 2021.

29. **Beneficiaries slated for benefit suspension due to non-receipt by the UNJSPF of their 2021 Certificates of Entitlement – Thailand:** The AFICS-T Executive Board has been notified that 27 CEs of retirees/beneficiaries living on Thailand, have yet to be received. After some efforts, the AFICS-T Executive Board was able to contact all the 27 beneficiaries and inform them of the required submission of their 2021 CEs to the Fund so as to avoid the benefit payment suspension in June 2022. At the same time, both the Fund and the BLO in Bangkok were informed accordingly. In this regard, it is very important that retirees/beneficiaries ensure that their mailing addresses, e-mail addresses as well as other pertinent contact information provided to UNJSPF are up to date.

5.4 Report on Committee on Medical Benefits

30. Cigna remains the third-party administrator of the United Nations Health Insurance Plan covering both internationally and locally recruited staff members including retirees and their eligible dependents under the World Wide Plan (WWP) and the Medical Insurance Plan (MIP).

31. Except in the case of additional coverage for Covid-19 checking, vaccination and treatment, there were no further changes in the reimbursement rules, nor in the entitlement ceilings in both WWP and MIP.

32. It should be noted that since the outbreak and persistence of Covid-19 three years ago, there are no visits by the representatives of Cigna Kuala Lumpur Office which handles medical claims and other related issues of participants in both WWP and MIP. AFICS-T learned that there were some personnel changes in the regional office and thus it was felt that such a restructuring might have affected the well-established consultation between AFICS-T and Cigna Kuala Lumpur. In this connection, the Executive Board wished to put on record that it did find these bilateral consultations mutually beneficial and would like to see them continued. Therefore, the AFICS-T Executive Board has initiated a request for online meetings with Cigna representatives. But so far there was no positive reply, except that Cigna stands always ready to entertain any consultation with AFICS-T members on individual basis.

33. At the invitation of the Executive Board, Dr. Surachai Vichankaiyakij, AFICS-T Medical Adviser, kindly made a presentation on the current situation on Covid-19 and the vaccination options available in Thailand at the 23rd Meeting of the Executive Board on 6 August 2021. A summary of that presentation was subsequently reproduced and distributed to AFICS-T membership at large through the Newsletter No. 13. Again, at the invitation of the Executive Board, Dr Surachai made a follow-up presentation on the new development with regard to Covid-19 and the vaccination protocol available in Thailand at the 28th Meeting of the Executive Board on 7 January 2022.

5.5 Report of the Committee on Information and Records

34. The Committee continued to collect essential data on AFICS-T members to update the existing AFICS-T database. It also assisted in printing Newsletters and other relevant documents for distribution through postal mail to AFICS-T members who opted for hard copies. Taken note of the possibility of creating email accounts under the AFICS-T domain name made available within the AFICS-T web site without any increase in fees, assistance was provided to members to avail themselves of this facility. However, as recommended by the Executive Board creation of such an email account under the domain name “aficsthailand” is to be optional.

35. In order to facilitate the distribution of documents for future Annual General Assemblies, the Committee worked out an online “nomination form” for AFICS-T members to nominate new Board members.

5.6 Report of the Committee on Publicity and Newsletters

36. AFICS-T issued, on a regular basis, a number of “Circulars/Newsletters” with a view to keeping members informed about issues and activities that would be of concern and interest to them. The Board accordingly issued the following circulars during the period under review:

<u>Circulars/Newsletters</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
10/2019-2021	4 July 2021
11/2019-2021	29 July 2021
12/2019-2021	5 October 2021
13/2019-2021	6 October 2021
14/2019-2021	14 June 2022

These circulars/Newsletter are available on the official AFICS-T website. In addition, the Board also kept members informed of urgent matters through their posting via “AFICS-T Official Information ONLY” Line group.

5.7 Report of the Committee on Benevolent Fund and Funerals

5.7.1 Report of the Sub-committee on Benevolent Fund

37. During the reporting period, 1 July 2021 to 30 April 2022, the following AFICS-T members have made voluntary financial contributions to the Fund amounting to Baht 500.00 as follows:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Amount/Baht</u>
1. Mr. Sunil Thanjira	500.00
Total amount	500.00

38. As of 30 April 2022, the Fund had a balance of Baht 206,646.30 of which Baht 258.27 was the interest income from the bank for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 April 2022.

5.7.2 Report of the Sub-committee on Funerals

39. During the previous twelve months, from June 2021 to May 2022, 23 members of our Association passed away. AFICS-T presented a wreath and/or provided a token financial contribution Baht 2,000.00 to the families of those former staff members, as follows:

<u>Name of Deceased Members</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Ms. PhornWongviensook	14/06/21
2. Mr. Rein Puhong	11/07/21
3. Ms. Chongchareon Boosbarat	20/07/21
4. Ms. Orapin Sirisambandh	25/07/21
5. Mr. Chalaw Ruenkasem	29/07/21
6. Mr. Nutthawut Kruanha	01/08/21
7. Ms. Arom Suksavas	04/08/21
8. Ms. Ruth RaneeSnongjati	06/09/21
9. Ms. Somchit Pinnil	09/09/21
10. Ms. Phailin Chuawiwat	25/09/21
11. Ms. Seiko Takahashi	02/10/21
12. Mr. Do Van Lung	02/11/21
13. Ms. Prapha Kerdpradap	07/10/21

14. Ms. Suchitra Hiranyarat	07/11/21
15. Ms. Sangvan Chupongsas	20/11/21
16. Ms. Isra Buranasiri	07/12/21
17. Mr. Amphorn Suphanasarn	13/12/21
18. Mr. Nakarintr Thonglum	10/01/22
19. Ms. Jittima Viriyasena	23/01/22
20. Ms. Bunnak Sukprasert	28/02/22
21. Mr. Prathip Rochanapruk	16/03/22
22. Ms. Loy Ung Liang	24/04/22
23. Ms. Pongsri Ratanakarn	13/05/22

5.8 Report of the Committee on Recreation and Tours

40. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak, the Committee on Recreation and Tours, unfortunately did not undertake or propose any projects for both international and domestic excursions and therefore had to suspend all its activities until the time when safe travels are allowed to take place again.

5.9 Report of the Committee on Charity Activities

41. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic which remained critical, and in order to minimize the risk of infection on AFICS-T members, the Committee on Charity Activities decided to suspend temporarily all the activities which could lead to the risk of infection. Hence, there was no such high-risk activity during this reporting period.

42. On the other hand, reference is made to the 8th meeting of the AFICS-T Executive Board, held on 6 March 2020, whereby the Executive Board took note that the Committee's sales of the AFICS-T Polo shirts up to March 2020, had generated enough income and made the entire Polo shirts operation break-even. Then at its 30th meeting of the Executive Board, held on 4 March 2022, the Executive Board was informed of some remaining stocks of Polo shirts. Therefore, the Executive Board decided to distribute these remaining Polo shirts to the AFICS-T members who would participate in the up-coming "2022 Annual General Assembly". The distribution of these Polo shirts will be made on a first-come-first-serve basis, at one Polo shirt for each member, until the remaining stocks are exhausted.

5.10 Report of the Committee on Foreigners Living in Thailand (FLIT)

43. The Committee continued providing advisory services to active and retired foreign UN staff members in- and outside of Thailand regarding retirement in the country. In this context, dominant issues during the reporting period were as follows:

44. **Health insurance issues of UN retirees on Non-OA visa status.** Beginning of 2022 the Government of Thailand has announced a new set of rules for the renewal of Non-OA retirement visa (see *The Amendment to Additional Criteria for Purchasing Health Insurance for Non-Immigrant OA Visa (2).pdf*). The amendment stipulates that as of 1 October 2022, for those with foreign health insurance, it will no longer be required to buy local health insurance for visa renewal. However, it is required that proof of foreign insurance of 100,000 US\$ will be accepted only upon presentation of a Foreign Insurance Certificate, endorsed by an embassy. It remains uncertain whether this new requirement has been coordinated with embassies concerned and that they will be willing to provide such endorsements.

45. **Planned changes to conditions for retirement visa in Thailand (including “welcoming wealthy retirees”).** This new formula which would be added to the already existing Elite-Card scheme and would also be offered to “wealthy retirees”. To benefit from this offer, interested retirees would be required to either invest the equivalent of 250,000 US\$ in selected real estate property or in government bonds. In return an up to ten-year visa and a relaxation of the 90-day reporting requirement (only once per year) would be granted. Detailed instructions on how to apply and how the scheme would be operated have not yet been received and it remains to be seen to what extent it would be affordable for UN retirees.

46. **90-day reporting and pre-booking facilities at the Immigration Bureau (IB).** The option of doing the 90-day reporting online was closed for renovation in 2021 but has become operational under a new formula (initial registration and official issuance of password required). Since beginning of 2022 attempts using the system have mostly failed and in-person visits to the IB were necessary. However more recent experiences (April 2022) were more encouraging when attention was given to repeating the exact entries as in previous submissions. The pre-booking of appointments still seems to be beset with problems (April 2022).

47. **Covid vaccination issues.** After the initial dearth of information on and availability of Covid vaccinations in early 2021 the situation has normalised during the second half of 2022 and most of our colleagues who wanted them were able to obtain them either from government or private sources.

48. **End-of-life arrangements in Thailand.** Based on recent experiences with deceased colleagues with no next-of-kin relations in Thailand the issue of “power-of-attorney” arrangement was raised in our Info Letter 8 of 11 November 2021. Although, there was hardly any response from our members, the FLiT Committee is determined pursuing the matter since lack of such an arrangement can lead to considerable complications.

49. In summary, the continuing Covid situation and the concomitant work-from-home arrangements at most UN offices have rendered consultations with ESCAP Division of Administration in particular next to impossible and slowed down progress in matters like the Non-OA visa renewal and medical insurance issues, especially the ESCAP-initiated “Letter-of-Affirmation” concerning the health insurance status.

50. Although, the matter of pension taxation in Thailand has long been a “grey” area, in the recent discussion of attracting “wealthy” foreigners (investors, digital nomads and retirees) to Thailand, the Ministry of Finance mentioned in the debate that income tax exemption to these groups would be one of the incentives offered. However, this would mean no loss for state coffers since these groups “did not pay income tax anyway”. This to our impression constituted the first statement from a relevant official source that our pensions are not taxed.

6. Concluding remarks

51. The AFICS-T operations and activities continued to be negatively impacted by the persisting global Covid-19 pandemic during the period under review despite some improvements in term of gradual lighter restrictions. The monthly meetings of the Executive Board were still conducted via video conference and the Duty Officers operating remotely from home. The Executive Board had, during that period until the time of writing this report, continued to remotely deliver its assistance to the members and would like to take this opportunity to apologize for any inconvenience imposed by this extraordinary situation. However, under these special circumstances and until the Covid-19 pandemic subsides or at least be reclassified as endemic, the Executive Board will endeavor to continue ensuring the delivery of assistance to AFICS-T members and carry its activities as much as possible.

REPORT OF AUDITOR

To Members of AFICS-Thailand,

I have audited the balance sheets of AFICS-Thailand as at 30 June 2022 and the related statements of income and expenditures for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of AFICS-Thailand as to their correctness and completeness of the presentation. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audits.

I conducted my audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimated made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AFICS-Thailand as at 30 June 2022 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.



Panvipa Thammakoranonta
Auditor

**Bangkok,
6 July 2022**

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
(THAILAND)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

ASSETS

BAHT

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank	2,676,633.89
Cash at MAF	522,126.00
Petty Cash	5,000.00

Total Assets

3,203,759.89

LIABILITIES & FUND

Liabilities

-

Total liabilities

-

FUND

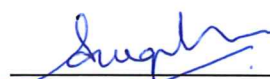
Balance as of 1 July 2021	3,183,308.19
Income over expenditures for 2021-2022	
- AFICS-T	15,595.45
- Excursion	244.34
- Charity	3,596.04
- Benevolent	1,015.87

Total Fund

3,203,759.89

Total Liabilities and Fund

3,203,759.89



Suraphon Songweera
President



Suntaree Suwannasing
Treasurer

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
(THAILAND)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES- EXCURSION FUND
For the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022**

INCOME

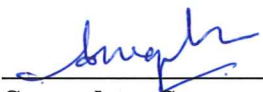
BAHT

Accommodation fees received	-
Bank interest earned	244.34
Total Income	244.34

EXPENDITURES

Accommodation fees, food, etc.	-
Miscellaneous expenses	-
Total Expenditures	-

Excess of income over expenditure	244.34
Add: Fund balance brought forward	97,672.99
Fund balance as at 30 June 2022	97,917.33



Suraphon Songweera
President



Suntaree Suwanasing
Treasurer

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
(THAILAND)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES
For the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022**

INCOME

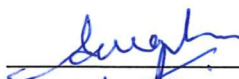
BAHT

Membership Fees	102,900.00
Interest earned	14,927.00
Miscellaneous income	-
Total Income	117,827.00

EXPENDITURES

FAFICS Membership Fees	27,282.64
Funeral Expenses	55,000.00
Car Parking Fee	-
Communications	5,276.22
Stationery	7,209.69
Web-site	6,313.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,150.00
Total Expenditures	102,231.55

Excess of income over expenditures	15,595.45
Add: Fund balance brought forward	2,643,379.00
Fund balance as at 30 June 2022	2,658,974.45



Suraphon Songweera
President



Suntaree Suwannasing
Treasurer

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
(THAILAND)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES- CHARITY FUND
For the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022**

INCOME

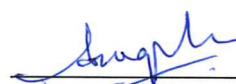
BAHT

Contributions received	3,000.00
Bank interest earned	596.04
Total Income	<u>3,596.04</u>

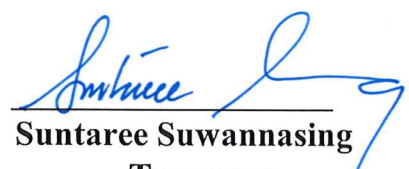
EXPENDITURES

Donation	-
Total Expenditures	<u>-</u>

Excess of income over expenditures	3,596.04
Add: Fund balance brought forward	<u>261,714.96</u>
Fund balance as at 30 June 2022	<u><u>265,311.00</u></u>



Suraphon Songweera
President



Suntaree Suwannasing
Treasurer

**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
(THAILAND)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES- BENEVOLENT FUND
For the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022**

INCOME

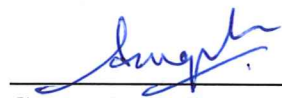
BAHT

Contributions received	500.00
Bank interest earned	515.87
Total Income	<u>1,015.87</u>

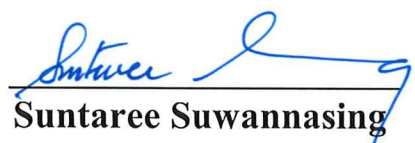
EXPENDITURES

Benevolent Grant	-
Total Expenditures	<u>-</u>

Excess of income over expenditures	1,015.87
Add: Fund balance brought forward	<u>205,888.03</u>
Fund balance as at 30 June 2022	<u><u>206,903.90</u></u>



Suraphon Songweera
President



Suntaree Suwannasing
Treasurer