



ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS – THAILAND

15 July 2020

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (JULY 2019 to JUNE 2020)

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

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

1. President	Mr. SuraphonSongweera
2. First Vice-President	Mr. Ti Le-Huu
3. Second Vice-President	Mr. SuraphongChuachamsai
4. Secretary	Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda
5. Deputy Secretary	Ms. ChitrapornBoonyasit
6. Treasurer	Ms. SuntareeSuwannasing
7. Deputy Treasurer	Ms.UraiwanSiriwatananukul
8. Registrar	Ms. OnanongPanyajaray
9. Communications Officer	Ms. Vena Visaruitawongse
10. Web Master	Mr. SomkhoonAntanai
11. Deputy Web Master	Mr. VijjuKasayapanandha

Members:

12. Mr. SomchaiCongtavinsutti
13. Ms. JunpenJirasavetakul
14. Mr. Peter Hegenbarth
15. Ms. DuangthipPatraplachai
16. Ms. MetineeHunkosol
17. Ms. SumeteeJongmu
18. Ms. PagapuntAneknidhi
19. Ms. SiraphaKhomson

Advisers:

20. Mr. ChingchaiLikitnukul
21. Mr. VudhithepTanghongse
22. Mr. YossuwanAnandhwanlert
23. Mr. Jan Orsini

Medical Adviser

24. Dr. SurachaiVichankaiyakij

2. 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, whose presence at AFICS-T office was required during AFICS-T office hours.

3. 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. ApinpornIsrangkul Na Ayudhya, Ms. ChiraphornSawalaksana, Ms. ChitrapornBoonyasit, MsDuangjaiBoonyakesanond, Ms. DuanglutaiKhomson, Ms. DuangthipPatraplachai, Ms. JunpenJirasavetakul, Ms. KrisdapornSinghaseni, Ms. MetineeHunkosol, Ms. OnanongPanyajaray, Ms. PagapuntAneknidhi, Mr. PatanapongSiriwatananukul, Mr. SomkhonAntanai, Ms. SoythipThongthua, Ms.SuntareeSuwannasing, Ms. SuradeeBhadrasiri, Mr. SuraphonSongweera, Mr. SuraphongChuachamsai, Ms. SuthasineeMaruttamarn, Mr. SuwatTherdsuwan, Ms. UraiwanSiriwatananukul, Ms. VaraphornPrapatsakdi, Ms. Vena Visruitawongse, Mr. ViboonVongsantivanich and Ms. YupaWongsuchat*

2. Committee and Sub-committees of AFICS-T

4. 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:

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|------------------|---------------------------|
| Co-Chairpersons: | Mr. ChingchaiLikitnukul |
| | Mr. YossuwanAnandhwanlert |
| Members: | Ms. SuntareeSuwannasing |
| | Mr. VudhithepTanghongse |
| | Mr. SuraphonSongweera |

Sub-Committee on CEs:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Co-Chairpersons: | Ms. JunpenJirasavetakul |
| | Mr. SuraphongChuachamsai |

Members: Ms. SuntareeSuwannasing
Ms. MetineeHunkosol
Ms. OnanongPanyajaray

2. Committee on Medical Benefits:

Chairperson: Mr. YossuwanAnandhwanlert
Medical Adviser: Dr. SurachaiVichankaiyakij

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

Co-Chairpersons: Mr. ChingchaiLikitnukul
Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda
Members: Ms. PagapuntAneknidhi
Ms. JunpenJirasavetakul
Mr. Ti Le-Huu

(2) Sub-Committee on MIP:

Chairperson: Ms. SuntareeSuwannasing
Members: Ms. MetineeHunkosol
Mr. SuraphongChuachamsai

3. Committee on Information and Records:

Chairperson: Mr. SomkhonAntanai
Members: Mr. VijjuKasayapanandha

4. Committee on Publicity and Newsletters:

Co-Chairpersons: Mr. Jean-Louis Vignuda (English)
Mr. SomchaiCongtavinsutti (Thai)

5. Committee on Benevolent Fund and Funerals:

Chairperson: Ms. MetineeHunkosol
Members: Ms. SuntareeSuwannasing
Ms. UraiwanSiriwatananukul

6. Committee on Recreation and Tours:

Chairperson: Ms. Vena Visaruitawongse
Members: Ms. SumeteeJongmu
Ms. YupaWongsuchat
Ms. SirapraphaKhomson
Ms. SuntareeSuwannasing
Mr. VudhithepTanghongse

7. Committee on Charity Activities:

Chairperson: Ms. SumeteeJongmu
Members: Ms. Vena Visaruitawongse
Ms. PagapuntAneknidhi
Ms. YupaWonsuchat
Ms. SirapraphaKhomson
Ms. DuangthipPattraplachai

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

5. The AFICS-T membership has grown steadily since the Founding Meeting, held on 26 February 2001, when there were only 87 participants. Number of membership 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

6. As of 31 May 2020, the paid-up membership stands at 209. However, the total number of members, including those with membership fees in arrears, was 832. Since the introduction of the life membership in 2008, the Association now has 623 life members, including 140 members who are 80 years old or over, and are exempted from annual membership fees.

4. Temporary closure of UN Building

7. In an effort to contain the spread of the Covid-19, the UN Secretary-General and the respective heads of entity in several duty stations across the world have decided to restrict physical access to UN premises while keeping offices open virtually. Accordingly, the decision

was taken by the Thailand UN Designated Official for a full closure of the UN Building starting 26 March 2020 until further notice. Staff members were required to work remotely and access to the Building from visitors was strictly limited as most of the usual non-UN services provided such as SCB UN Branch, Post office, AMEX Travel office, etc. would not be available. Under these extraordinary situation AFICS-T had to adjust its activities and services. Consequently, the AFICS-T office was closed and to ensure response for any emergency query from AFICS-T members selected telephone contacts were provided. Since Board meetings could not be convened, Board members were also requested to work remotely as well.

8. The Designate Official together with the UN entities in Thailand decided to a phase return of some staff to the UN building, including the availability of services such as Banking, commencing on Monday, 11 May 2020.

5. Summary of Activities

9. 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

10. Ms. PanvipaThammakoranonta, Auditor, has audited all accounts of AFICS-T. The audited financial statement of accounts for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020is attached as annex to this report.

5.2 Report on Memberships in FAFICS

11. 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 1January of each year. Since the beginning of 2020, FAFICS has fixed the contribution rate at US\$2.00 per member per year. As of 1 January 2020 the numbers of subscribing members were recorded as 209 persons. Accordingly, the 2020 dues for 209 members (@US\$2.00) were duly paid to FAFICS beginning February 2020 amounting to US\$418.00

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

12. In accordance with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), pension benefits of retirees/beneficiaries on both the US dollar and local Thai Baht tracks have increased by 4.2 and 2.3 per cent respectively, effective on 1 April 2020.

13. The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (UNJSPB) has appointed Ms. Rosemarie McClean as the Chief Executive of Pension Administration, starting on 2 January 2020. With the resignation of Mr. SudhirRajkumar, Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on 31 March 2020, the Secretary-General has designated Mr. Pedro Guazo as the Acting Representative of the Secretary-General for the Fund Investment, effective on 1 April 2020.

14. The global Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the investments and assets of the Fund, which stood at \$63.41 billion as of 31 March 2020. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, in his April letter to pension retirees/beneficiaries reassured his commitment that, with sufficient liquidity of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), pension benefits would continue to be paid in time and in full. The UNJSPF has further confirmed that: (1) the process of pension benefits is normal, as usual, with no additional delay, as the process is done electronically with the banks effecting payments directly into accounts of respective beneficiaries; (2) Covid-19 has no effect on the Fund's funding stability, as the UNJSPF is a fully funded defined benefit plan, based on established factors and formula defined under the Plan; and (3) as such, the Fund has sufficient liquidity to cover the payment of benefits. In the special circumstances caused by Covid-19, UNJSPF exceptionally allows, as an interim solution to ensure continued services, the electronic submission, coursed through the appropriate authorities, of official forms and supporting documentation. In this case, the UNJSPF must receive physically the original forms via mail within the time of three months of the electronic submission.

15. The UNJSPF started the exercise of the 2019 Certificates of Entitlement (CEs) by the end of May 2019 with the first mailing of bar-coded CEs to all beneficiaries, and followed with a second mailing in September 2019 to those beneficiaries, who failed to return their signed and dated CEs forwarded in the first mailing. As of the usual practice, the AFICS-T Executive Board collected 528 signed and dated CEs from members and dispatched them by courier service to the UNJSPF on 5 August 2019. As for the second mailing, 19 signed and dated CEs had been received from members and were courier-delivered to UNJSPF on 12 November 2019, making a total number of 547 CEs collected and dispatched by the Executive Board. All were well received and receipt acknowledgement was given by the UNJSPF.

16. However, on 15 February 2020, the Executive Board received from UNJSPF information on its non-receipt of signed 2019 CEs from pensioners living in Thailand including those who had worked in the UN system in Thailand prior to their retirement. According to the UNJSPF, there were 25 such pensioners whose duly signed 2019 CEs had not been received by the Pension Fund. Thus, AFICS-T contacted those pensioners but could find only 15 of them, with 14 alive and one passed away, two handled by their offices, and the rest eight pensioners could not be reached due to unclear addresses. AFICS-T had returned the completed list to UNJSPF to ensure that their periodic benefits would not be suspended at the end of June 2020. AFICS-T was not able to locate the following eight pensioners with unclear addresses: (1) *Ms. Van der Oord, Charee*; (2) *Mr. Stefano Wong, Poo Lin*; (3) *Mr. Ferrier, Michael*; (4) *Mr. Chanthavisouk, Vongdeuane*; (5) *Ms. Rozga, Dorothy M*; (6) *Ms. Pitaksuntipan, Surangkana*; (7) *Mr. Khumparnonnda, Swing*; (8) *Mr. Htwe, Myint*. Should any AFICS-T members happen to know the whereabouts of the eight persons named above, please inform them or their family members of the continued need to complete their CEs for submission to the UNJSPF. In this regard, the Executive Board would like to emphasize that all AFICS-T members should make sure that their mailing addresses with the UNJSPF are up-to-date and in case of any need, members should not hesitate to contact the Executive Board. Due to the disruption of mail and other means of delivery services caused by Covid-19, the deadline for the suspension of pension benefits owing to non-receipt of the 2019 CEs had been extended from end-May to end-June 2020.

17. By now, the UNJSPF should start the exercise of the 2020 CEs with the first mailing scheduled by end-June instead of the usual end-May 2020. As of the usual practice, retirees may avail themselves of the services of AFICS-T in the collection and group dispatch of signed and

dated CEs to the Pension Fund. In view of the huge volume of work, such as collating, recording, forwarding and following-up of the CEs of AFICS-T members, the Executive Board has established a sub-Committee on CEs, as reflected under the Committee on Pension and Group Life Insurance Benefits, for better services to pensioners/beneficiaries

18. At the request of the Staff Association Committee of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN Women, the Executive Board conducted a “Talk on Pension 2019” on Tuesday, 1 October 2019, for their staff. Similarly, at the request of the Staff of UNICEF and FAO in Bangkok, the Executive Board also conducted a “Briefing on United Nations Pension Benefits” on Friday, 18 October 2019 for the UNICEF and FAO staff. Both seminars were well attended and received by the participants. In a review of the seminars, while appreciating the service requests from different UN offices/agencies and other entities, the Executive Board considers it only appropriate that all the requests should be channeled through the Executive Board.

19. The Executive Board continued in providing assistance to 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.

20. Upon request, the Executive Board assisted spouses of the deceased retiree 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.

21. 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 handled by the human resources staff of the respective UN offices from where the retirees had separated their services.

22. The “help desk” services at the AFICS-T office, which have been available until March 2020, were disrupted by the outbreak of Covid-19.

5.4 Report on Committee on Medical Benefits

23. Cigna still 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 dependants, as appropriate, under the World Wide Plan (WWP) and the Medical Insurance Plan (MIP).

24. There were neither changes in the reimbursement rules nor in the entitlements relating to the ceiling reimbursement entitlements under both WWP and MIP.

25. With the implementation of the on-line submission, we had received very good responses from our members, expressing their appreciation on the speedy acknowledgement of the receipt of the claim and fast processing of the reimbursement of the claim. There have also been tremendous improvements in the Cigna services in prompt processing of the claim as well as the updated information on the balance available and the stop-loss/out-of-pocket amount.

26. With the upward CPI adjustment in pension benefits, coupled with claim experiences, the premium of both WWP and MIP may have increased slightly, starting in April 2020.

27. Cigna Representative, Ms. Baljit Kaur visited Bangkok for individual consultation of members in July 2019. During this visit, there had been quite a number of individual consultation requests from AFICS-T members. As usual, the Executive Board members had discussions with Ms. Kaur, following up on the issues of the reimbursement coverage and the claim processing by Cigna staff with due reference to past records of claimants. We are sorry to learn that Ms. Kaur had left Cigna at the end of March 2020. We are yet to be advised of her successor.

5.4.1 Report of the Sub-Committee on Medical Insurance Plan (MIP)

28. With the discontinuation of services provided by the ESCAP Human Resources Management Section (HRMS) in the collection of the claim documents for submission to Cigna starting on 5 October 2018, all retirees are now used to submitting to Cigna their claims either on-line or through postal service at their own expenses. In this regard, the Executive Board duty officers are at times required to assist our members who were not conversant with the computer facilities and smart phones applications by means of a “help desk” in the AFICS-T Office. We are pleased that many members and their family members avail themselves of such services provided by the duty officers.

29. The ESCAP Budget and Finance Section have adopted the electronic-billing of premium and payment by MIP members with the use of e-mail services, starting from the second quarter, April-June, of 2020. This e-billing system replaces the hard copy billing by mail as practiced thus far.

5.4.2 Report of the Sub-Committees on WWP

30. As mentioned above, there were neither changes in the reimbursement rules nor in the entitlements relating to the ceiling reimbursement entitlements, in particular with regard to dental treatment, optical lenses and single room accommodation in hospital under WWP. However, the Sub-Committee strongly considers that they need to be updated to reflect the actual caring costs.

5.5 Report of the Committee on Information and Records

31. During the reporting period, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, the Committee carried out the following tasks:

1. Updated the AFICS-T member's database on the website (www.aficsthailand.com) which was re-designed and launched in March 2019. The website contains variety of information relevant to benefits and entitlements for retirees and beneficiaries

including the updated By-Laws Revision 4, as adopted at the Nineteenth Annual General Assembly.

2. Regularly posted on the website the latest information and Newsletters issued by the Executive Board; and

3. Improved security of the website by changing HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) to HTTPS (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure). In doing so the connection is being encrypted by Transport Layer Security (TLS) and thus the website will not be blocked by Google.

5.6 Report of the Committee on Publicity and Newsletters

32. 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>
1/2019-2021	19 August 2019
2/2019-2021	21 October 2019
3/2019-2021	14 November 2019

33. In addition, the Board also kept members informed of urgent matters through their posting via AFICS-T LINE group.

5.7 Report of the Committee on Benevolent Fund and Funerals

5.7.1 Report of the Sub-committee on Benevolent Fund

34. During the reporting period, July 2019 to May 2020, the following AFICS-T members have made voluntary financial contributions to the Fund amounting to Baht 3,000.00 as follows:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Amount/Baht</u>
1.	Ms. PrapensriDisyavanich	2,000.00
2.	Mr. Fujimoto Hideaki	500.00
3.	Mr. Sunil Thanyachira	500.00
Total amount		3,000.00

35. As of 31 May 2020, the Fund had a balance of Baht 204,406.81 of which Baht 510.15 was the interest income from the bank for the period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.

5.7.2 Report of the Sub-committee on Funerals

36. During the previous 12 months, from July 2019 to 30 June 2020, 13 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. Mr. ThanasakThammetha	10/06/2019
2. Mr. AnukoolKongrod	11/07/2019
3. Ms. ChoosinVanavisuthikul	24/08/2019
4. Ms. PrapinSrivoraphak	05/11/2019
5. Mr. AranAnekboon	26/12/2019
6. Mr.Sam Ian Cummins	31/12/2019
7. Ms. Vanphen M. Jones	03/01/2020
8. Mr. Chet Sethaputra	22/01/2020
9. Col. PaibulCharernfung	15/01/2020
10. Mr. SungkomPuengpradit	21/02/2020
11. Ms. AoypornChongchitkasem	18/03/2020
12. Ms. YonchitAguru	03/04/2020
13. Ms. KosolChatikavanij	20/06/2020

5.8 Report of the Committee on Recreation and Tours

37. During the reporting period the Committee on Recreations and Tours, in cooperation with the Committee on Charity, organized only one excursion-cum-charity trip to KhaoYai, NakhonRatchasima Province from 2-4 February 2020. The trip went well and was enjoyable. Those who joined the trip expressed their readiness to join in future AFICS-T excursions.

5.9 Report of the Committee on Charity Activities

38. During the reporting period, the Committee on Charity Activities joined the Committee on Recreation and Tours in organizing the excursion-cum-charity trip to KhaoYai from 2-4 February 2020. In this connection, arrangements were made to visit Pa Makham Monastery, an accommodation and care for sick monks, to make merit and donation. A fund raising was accordingly organized for this purpose, and as a result the Committee on Charity Activities received a total contribution of 37,500.00 Baht from members as of 30 January 2020. In

addition, 30,000.00 Baht was made available by the Executive Board for that particular charity activity from the AFICS-T Charity Fund. The combined amount of 67,500.00 Baht was then earmarked to be used for the purchase of food supplements and personal hygiene supplies for distribution to sick monks being looked after at Pa Makham Monastery. However, the total expenses incurred in that respect amounted to 53,520 Baht only. Thus, the unused contribution 13,980.00 Baht was surrendered to the Charity account for future charity activities to be proposed to the Executive Board for its consideration.

39. With regard to the sale of AFICS-T polo shirts, after achieving the break-even between the sales income and cost of production, the remaining stock of polo shirts was sold to members of AFICS-T at a discounted price, i.e. Baht 200 apiece.

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

40. Apart from the Committee's usual preoccupation with advising active and retired foreign UN staff members inside and outside of Thailand regarding retirement in the country, the dominant subject for the current reporting period was the changed requirement for health insurance coverage, when wanting to stay in the country.

41. Since April 2019 the Government of Thailand has introduced a requirement of health insurance coverage for new applications or renewal of retirement visa (NON-OA) and started enforcing it from beginning of 2020.

42. Most former international civil servant retirees are covered by after-service health insurance arrangements (e.g., Cigna, Aetna, MSH, UNSMIS, etc.) going much beyond the coverage required by the Immigration Bureau (IB), which is 40K Baht for out- and 400K for inpatient treatment.

43. However, when renewing retirement visa, IB would accept only insurance certification issued by 15 locally represented companies listed by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). This means that UN retirees, although, fully covered, must buy additional insurance for the sole purpose of obtaining the certification that IB is prepared to accept. The additional expense starts at 19K Baht per year but increases according to age and "pre-existing" medical conditions, e.g. diabetes. Retirees over 80 have practically no chance buying insurance, at all, since companies will not be willing to accept the increased risk.

44. The Committee has undertaken a number of initiatives and informed its members in four information letters between 4 February and 17 March 2020 of progress or rather the lack of it.

45. These efforts culminated in a meeting with the Director of International Health, Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on 13 March 2020. The next step was supposed to be a meeting with an official from the Immigration Bureau. However, due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, these efforts have come to a complete halt. It is planned to renew them as soon as some amount of normalcy is re-established. In this regard ESCAP's Division of Administration, its Human Resources Management Section and in particular the Liaison Officer in the Host Country Relations Unit deserve our deep gratitude for not only supporting our concerns, but actively pursuing contacts in the Thai Government and inviting us to participate.

6. Concluding remarks

46. Since the beginning of March 2020, the first term of the present Executive Board (2019-2021) has been disrupted by the global Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed most of the AFICS-T operations and activities had been negatively impacted as shown in the above sections of the report. The monthly meetings of the Executive Board were also interrupted as well as the Duty Officers operations suspended. The Executive Board had, during that period until the time of writing this report, tried 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, the Executive Board will endeavor to continue ensuring the delivery of assistance to AFICS-T members and carry its activities as much as possible.
