

# **Statutes of the Association NAMASTE**

Association of persons interested in sponsoring the scolarisation and professional formation of very poor children in the Kalimpong region and the State of Sikkim.

## **NAME – AIMS – SEAT – DURATION**

### ***Article 1***

Under the denomination « Namaste » is hereby established a non profit organization as specified in articles 60sq. of the Swiss Civil Code.

### ***Article 2***

The Association pursues no political aims and, though of religious inspiration, keeps away from all forms of proselitism ; it makes no distinction of race, caste or religion.

### ***Article 3***

The Association aims at improving the economic condition of the poorest of the population by encouraging and sponsoring the education and professional formation of children in order to give them access to the employment market. It looks after the health, the alimentation and life conditions of the beneficiary children without, as a rule, taking them out of their family, this in the North-East of India, on the territory mentioned in article 4.

### ***Article 4***

The seat of the Association is the Abbey of St-Maurice (Wallis, Switzerland). The Centre of its activities is Kalimpong (District Darjeeling, W. Bengal, India).

### ***Article 5***

Duration : no time limit has been set to the activities of the Association.

## **FINANCIAL CONDITIONS**

### ***Article 6***

The resources of « Namaste » accrue from the amount of the members' contributions, sponsorships and other voluntary contributions, as well as from the revenues of any manifestation organized by the Association. All contributions are pooled in a common fund and re-distributed according to the beneficiary children's needs.

### ***Article 7***

General and administrative expenses are reduced to the strict minimum and shall be submitted to the General Assembly. The committee members act benevolently.

### ***Article 8***

The liabilities of the Association are exclusively garanted by its assets. Association members (active and passive) incur no personal responsibility for its dealings, neither can they assert any individual claim on the assets of the Association.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### ***Article 9***

Are active members :

- a. The sponsors (godfathers/mothers) paying an annual contribution, as well as any person actively engaged in the realisation of the project.
- b. The Indian partners who locally make use of the funds and conduct the activities of the Association in conformity with the statutes and the desiderata expressed by the committee.
- c. The members of the committee of the Association.

### ***Article 10***

The Abbot of St-Maurice and the former C.R.A. missionaries are by right members of Namaste.

## **THE BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### ***Article 11***

The Branches of Namaste are :

- a. the General Assembly
- b. the Committee

#### **▪ The General Assembly**

### ***Article 12***

The General Assembly comprises all the active members and those who are members by right.

The Abbot of St. Maurice or his representative presides over the Assembly in virtue of his office.

The General Assembly is convened by the Committee at least twenty days in advance and at least once in three years. It can also be summoned at the request of one fifth of the active members of the Association. The convocation must be adressed by writing and mention the place, the date and the order of the day of the Assembly.

In case of voting, every active member may cast one vote. If the poll ends in a draw, the president's voice is decisive. No fixed quorum has been established ; decisions are taken as per the majority of the attending members. A member may stand for another on presentation of a written procuration ; vote by correspondence is permitted.

### ***Article 13***

Being the supreme power of the Association, the General Assembly :

- establishes or modifies the statutes
- approves the budget and the accounts
- fixes the amount of the yearly contribution at Fr. 10.-- minimum
- sanctions the nomination of the committee members and of the accounts comptrollers
- suggests and finalizes eventual modifications of the current program of action
- decides on matters lying beyond the scope of the committee
- examines the members' individual proposals
- declares itself on the eventual exclusion of members
- gives discharge to the committee.

#### **▪ The Committee**

### ***Article 14***

The Committee conducts the affairs and activities of the Association and represents it. It is notably entrusted with :

- fixing the amount of the annual sponsorships
- striving with every useful means towards the fulfilment of the aims of the Association
- appointing a secretary-treasurer
- convening the General Assembly and establishing the order of the day
- pronouncing itself on the admission of members of the Association
- directing and animating the activities of the Association
- executing the decisions of the General Assembly
- establishing an annual report on its own gestion and on the accounts
- sending regularly a delegate to India to check on the use of funds and to motivate the local respondents and the beneficiary children.

### ***Article 15***

The committee is composed of three persons at least, including a president, a vice-president en a secretary-treasurer.

The members of the committee are coopted and appointed for a three-year-period ; they may be re-elected twice.

The Abbot of St. Maurice or his representative is president by virtue of his office.

The committee can sit validly only if the majority of its members are present.

The committee meets as often as necessary, at the summon of the president or at the request of one of its members.

The secretary keeps a written report of its meetings as well as of the General Assembly meetings.

#### ***Article 16***

The secretary-treasurer is commissioned with the following :

- maintaining the contacts between the committee and the Indian respondents of the Association
- informing the Association members on the evolution of the sponsored children/youth, specially through an annual circular letter
- seeing to the necessary periodical bank transfers and demanding acknowledgment receipts
- operating the funds of the association and rendering an annual account of his (her) gestion.

#### ***Article 17***

With regard to outsiders, the Association is represented by the collective signatures of the president or vice-president, and of another member of the committee.

### **DISSOLUTION**

#### ***Article 18***

The Association can be dissolved by the General Assembly at a majority of the attending members, with possibility to vote by correspondence or procuration. In case of dissolution of the Association, its assets are entirely devolved to an educational charitable institution in the diocese of Darjeeling.

### **DATE AND ENFORCEMENT**

#### ***Article 19***

The present statutes have been adopted by the General Assembly held at the St. Maurice Abbey on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002.

They take effect immediately.

