

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

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TRUSTEES:

A M Cartwright (Honorary Treasurer)
V Easlea
C Humfrey (resigned 22 January 2019)
R Lamb
B Omrani
F Slevin (Chairman)
A Steger
D Taylor

CHARITY OFFICES:

1a St Martins House
Polygon Road
London
NW1 1QB

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1179300

CE014710

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Ian W Shipley FCCA
For and on behalf of:
Prentis & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants & Independent Examiners
115c Milton Road
Cambridge
CB41XE

BANKERS:

Lloyds Bank
Pall Mall
St James Branch
8-10 Waterloo Place
London
SW1Y 1BE

INVESTMENT MANAGERS:

CCLA Investment Management
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2019. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1st January 2019).

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs was reconstituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 23rd July 2018 reference 1179300, and assets transferred from the old Society on 10th January 2019. The Society was originally established as the Central Asian Society in 1901 and in 1931 was granted its Royal designation. In 1975 the Charity changed its name to The Royal Society for Asian Affairs (known also as RSAA).

The Society is now governed by its trust deed following conversion to CIO status.

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election.

On appointment all Trustees received an induction pack and are informed of their duties as Trustees.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity's objectives are to promote learning and advance education in the subject of and with regard to all the countries of Asia.

The Charity aims to achieve this through publishing material, arranging events, tours and courses, maintaining a library and collaboration with other organisations.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and continue to do so. The Trustees believe public benefit is satisfied by the advancement of education the Charity undertakes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Society continued to pursue its educational objectives and to promote interest in Asia through a programme of lectures and dinner events in London. The Society held one full-day conference in London jointly with the Woodrow Wilson Center and King's College London. A schools' day was held, as in previous years, at SOAS.

The Society's journal, *Asian Affairs*, was published four times, including a special edition devoted to the proceedings of the joint conference referred to above. The Society secured the collaboration of SOAS for a further conference to be held in 2020. Downloads of articles from the journal showed strong growth.

The Society awarded the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial Medal to Francese Vendrell CMG in recognition of his lifetime contribution to the resolution of disputes in Asia. The medal was presented at the Society's Biennial Dinner in May 2019 at which a speech was also given by Lord Malloch-Brown.

The Society awarded five JPT Family Trust scholarships for travel in support of medical study and three RSAA Travel Awards in support of research.

The Society's collaboration with Haileybury College was deepened, with additional books provided by the Society to the library collection held at Haileybury and the adoption by Haileybury of the same cataloguing system already operated by the Society.

The board adopted a policy against any further sale of items from the Society's archives.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESCONT

The Society's transition from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, begun in 2017, was completed with the transfer of assets from the old charity to the new on in January 2019.

The position of President of the Society was vacant for the whole of 2019 following the end of Lord Davies' term of office, but the Society is honoured that Professor Peter Frankopan has taken on the presidency with effect from April 2020. The position of Patron of the Society became vacant with the withdrawal of HRH the Duke of York from public duties in late 2019.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society had a surplus of £848,042 for the period, following the transfer of assets donated from the previous Society. Investments showed unrealised gains of £104,022. Reserves currently stand at £848,042 and the Trustees consider the financial situation of the Charity satisfactory.

POST-YEAR-END EVENTS

The coronavirus pandemic presented fundamental challenges to the RSAA's established operating practices, but also opportunities.

The last three years of investment in new internet-based back-office systems meant that administrative functions could be continued seamlessly with staff working from home. There was therefore no need for the Society to make use of the UK government's furlough scheme or to make any redundancies beyond one that had, for other reasons, already been implemented at the turn of the year.

The Society then implemented a wholly new and enlarged programme of weekly online lectures as well as increased blog activity, a quiz and a competition.

The new activities have proved very popular. Lecture audiences have grown from an average of less than fifty between 2017 and early 2020 to an average online audience of eight-five and a peak of 136.

Participants for whom a London venue was not readily accessible are now joining online events regularly, including from all time zones and latitudes.

A planned conference on the environment and social justice in Asia, had to be cancelled, but the substance of the event will be published as a special edition of Asian Affairs.

RESERVE POLICY

The Society has no permanent endowment but has a policy of retaining funds in reserves to support future growth, to allow for future expenditure and to generate ongoing income to support the Society's charitable activities. The Trustees consider the current level of reserves at £848,000 appropriate to these purposes.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

For the foreseeable future the Society's lectures will remain online.

A process of strategic review and adjustment, begun with the transition to a CIO, will continue throughout 2020 and 2021 aimed at enhancing the quality and quantity of the Society's output and reducing cost overheads.

That review will now additionally draw on the successful experience of delivering RSAA events online and of operating with less reliance on fixed premises.

As an initial cost-saving measure, one staff position was made redundant from January 2020.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES CONT

A new website will be launched, providing better integration of membership services, improved access to recordings of the Society's events and incorporating the RSAA blog.

The Society's collaboration with Haileybury College will be further strengthened.

KEY PERSONNEL AND PAY POLICY

The Charity is directed and controlled on a day to day basis by a Chief Executive Officer and two assistants, together with support from volunteers. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the Charity and are not remunerated for their duties as Trustees. The CEO is accountable to the Trustees.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf.

F SLEVIN
CHAIRMAN

A CARTWRIGHT
HONORARY TREASURER

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the period ended 31st December 2019, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Charity's Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

Having been satisfied that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under the 2011 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts are carried out under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in s.145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by s.310 of the 2011 Act;
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or;
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

IAN W SHIPLEY FCCA
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:
PRENTIS & CO LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS &
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

115c Milton Road
Cambridge
CB41XE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	2019 £
INCOME		
Subscriptions, donations and legacies	2	67085
Charitable Activities	3	80710
Investment Income	4	29578
Reserves donated from unincorporated Society		760505
TOTAL INCOME		937878
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable Activities	5	198033
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		198033
NET INCOME BEFORE GAINS ON INVESTMENTS		
		739845
Net gains on investment assets	10	108197
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		848042
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total Funds brought forward		
Total Funds carried forward		848042

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2019	
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Library	8		
Office equipment	9		8524
Investments	10		810810
			--
			819335
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock	11	1080	
Debtors	12	62665	
Cash at bank and in hand		2679	
		-	
		66424	
		--	
LIABILITIES			
Creditors falling due within one year	13	37717	
		--	
Net Current Assets			28707
			--
NET ASSETS			848042
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds	16		846481
Designated funds			1561
			848042

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf.

FSLEVIN
CHAIRMAN

A CARTWRIGHT
HONORARY TREASURER

The notes on pages 7 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**(a) BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and effective 1st January 2019, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Trust are the level of investment return and the performance of investment markets.

(b) INCOME RECOGNITION

Incoming resources are included when receivable, with the exception of subscriptions which are recognised as income when received; subscriptions in advance however are deferred.

(c) EXPENDITURE RECOGNITION

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category.

(d) GOVERNANCE COSTS

These costs relate to central management and administration costs, management of the Charity's assets, organisational management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(e) SUPPORT COSTS

Overheads and support costs have been apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. staff time.

(f) TAXATION

The Society is a registered Charity and its income is exempt from Corporation tax as it is applied for charitable purposes.

(g) DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided to write off the costs of tangible fixed assets on a reducing balance over their useful economic lives at the following rates:-

Office equipment and fittings - 25%

Software - 25%

(h) FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the gains and losses arising on the revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

The Charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The main form of financial risk faced by the Charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors and sub sectors.

(i) REALISED GAINS AND LOSSES

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

j) FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds are incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the Charity without further specific purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used to specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Designated funds are unrestricted general funds designated by the Trustees to be set aside and expended on a specific purpose.

(k) STOCK

Stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

(l) CASH FLOW STATEMENT EXEMPTION

The Charity has taken advantage of exemptions under Charities SORP and Section 7 of FRS I 02 to not produce a Statement of Cash Flows.

2 .	SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	2019
	- Unrestricted	£
	Grants	9000
	Subscriptions	57625
	Donations and legacies	460
		67085
3 .	INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2019
	- Unrestricted	£
	Secretarial services	2382
	Lectures	908
	Publications/royalties	60604
	Presentations and events	14564
	Tours	1900
	Society shields/ties/notelets	101
	Sale of images of archive material	251
		80710

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4.	INVESTMENT INCOME			2019
				£
	Dividends on listed investments			29577
	Interest receivable on cash deposits			1
				-
				29578
				--
5.	COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES			2019
				£
	Lectures			3674
	Library services			327
	Publications			23942
	Presentations and events			26934
	Ties/shields/notelets			128
	Support costs (note 6)			143028
				--
				198033
				--
6.	SUPPORT COSTS	Charitable		2019
		Activities	Governance	Total
		£	£	£
	Staff costs	84206	-	84206
	IT support and consumables	6315	-	6315
	Cleaning	1605	-	1605
	Rent, rates and utilities	33201	-	33201
	Insurance	2244	-	2244
	Repairs to property	1790	-	1790
	Printing, stationery, postage and advertising	4365	-	4365
	Other office costs	698	-	698
	Telephone	1247	-	1247
	Bank charges	806	-	806
	Depreciation	2831	-	2831
	Governance (note 7)		3720	3720
		--	--	--
		139308	3720	143028
			-	--
7.	GOVERNANCE COSTS			2019
				£
	Legal and professional costs			104
	Independent Examiners fee			1800
	Bookkeeping			1816
				-
				3720
8.	LIBRARY			
	Library assets have not been capitalised other than their inclusion in the balance sheet at a written down net book value off 1.			

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Software £	Office Equipment £	Total £
	COST			
	Additions	5994	5362	11356
	Balance at 31st December 2019	--	--	--
	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION			
	Charge for period	1499	1333	2832
	Balance at 31st December 2019	-	-	-
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31st December 2019	1499	1333	2832
			--	
		4495	4029	8524
			--	
10.	INVESTMENTS			2019 £
	Listed Investments			
	Additions			723950
	Disposals			(21337)
	Net realised investment gain			4175
	Net unrealised investment gains			104022
	Market value at end of period			-- 810810
	Listed investments are revalued at the year end to their market value. The listed investments are held indirectly on behalf of the Society.			
	The historical cost of listed investments is £706789. The majority of investment assets are held in the UK and there are no restrictions on the realisation of these investments.			
11.	STOCK			2019 £
	Inventory			1080
12.	DEBTORS			2019 £
	Trade receivables			22179
	Other debtors			28324
	Prepayments			12162
				62665
13.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			2019 £
	Social security and other truces			1723
	Accruals and deferred income			35768
	Trade creditors			226
				37717

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 23RD JULY 2018 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14.	RESERVES	Balance at 10th January 2019	Income	Expenditure	Gains	Transfers	Balance at 31st December 2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Designated					1561	1561
	Unrestricted		937878	198033	108197	(1561)	846481
			937878	198033	108197	-	848042

The Trustees have designated a sum of money as a book fund.

15.	NET ASSETS BY FUND	£
	Library	1
	Tangible fixed assets	8524
	Investments	810810
	Current assets	66424
	Current liabilities	(37717)
	Net Assets	848042

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year no expenses were reimbursed to the Trustees.

B Omrani, a Trustee was paid £8606 during the year for services in relation to editing.

17. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The total lease commitments for land and property amount to £390600. The lease is in excess of 5 years.