REPORT FOR THE 2007 YEAR FOR MANKON FORUM SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE (MFSI)
Prepared and presented by Fausta A Ditah.

In line with the objectives and mission of MFSI (providing education and scholarship to the academically Strong but Financially Handicapped children from Mankon) as a non profit organization, MFSI is thankful and will want to acknowledge the generous support of its donors and well wishers. We have been fortunate to receive contributions in both cash and kind and we will forever be indebted. In the next several paragraphs, MFSI will detail its activities over the course of 2007 and also have a review of its financial situation. The specific details of MFSI will be made available upon request and in a manner consistent with the by-laws of MFSI.

By way of introduction and history, MFSI became a registered non profit organization under the laws of the State of Michigan on December 18th, 2006 with its registered address in Ann Arbor. Over the next several months, we worked very hard and diligently to assemble a group of members who showed consistent efforts in supporting the objectives of MFSI. At that time, work was started and finished on its draft constitution/bylaws and in September 2007, MFSI filed a statement to amend its articles of incorporation. Before filing our amendments, the by-laws of MFSI were adopted on August 18th 2007 during one of our conference calls and our first board of directors were appointed into office by unanimous decisions of members present. Following the amendments of our articles of incorporation, MFSI compiled the necessary paper work to apply for its 501c tax exempt status and in October, the forms were officially presented to the United States IRS department. In November 2007, we received official word from the IRS granting us our requested status and backdating our tax deductible contributions to the initial date of recognition, December 2006. Along similar lines, we worked on the scholarship application form, a solicitation letter for funds, and an acknowledgement letter upon receipt of funds.

Administratively and in line with our constitution, five members were sworn into office in August 2007. Our pioneer officers include:
Chair: Fausta Ditah
Secretary: Ambe Che Nelson
Financial Secretary: Mobufor Roland
Treasurer: Suh Ade Fobujong
Alternate member: Chi Nkwenti
We have been fortunate to have Dr. David Awasum of Baltimore as a member. He has worked diligently and has always contributed very positively. He has consistently been a party to our conference calls, had a chance to proofread and help develop some of our working documents. We have also had the membership of Ms. Swirri Doreen, sharing great ideas and creating connections in certain areas of Mankon. To see our complete list of members, please take a closer look at our financial statement under the section of ‘REGISTRATION’. We were also fortunate to receive expert advice and opinion from a couple of partners who have engaged and spearheaded similar efforts in other parts of the country. We are thankful to input from Dr. Stanley Ngeyi and Mr. Richard Nkosu who have met with some members of our BOD on several occasions and have shared ideas generously. We have also enjoyed numerous suggestions and ideas from members of the office of Students Programs at the University of Michigan Medical School. I have met on several occasions with Eric Middleton, Ph.D and hope to continue the positive talks and trend. We look to continue to develop our networks and relationships. We cannot thank them enough.

Logistically, MFSI has stayed on stride for stride with its timeline. Our target had been recruiting our first scholarship class with the start of the 2008/2009 school year. MFSI was able to print 250 application forms in its first roll out. Forms were made available at the Bamenda Congress Hall, The Ntambeng Catholic Church, The Catechist at the Ala’ahtakahoh Catholic church and Radio Hot Cocoa. MFSI was privileged to have one of its Board members traveling to Cameroon in the person of Mr. Suh A Fobujong and we were quick to take advantage. We were also fortunate to have Mr. Amos Chi from California transport some of our application forms to Cameroon. Latest communications with the Parish priest at Ntambeng, our Ala’ahtakahoh and at Congress Hall indicate that things continue to go on schedule and some clarifications were also made. During our October conference call, members agreed to distribute ten application forms to each eligible institution. MFSI is in the process of rolling out a second set of applications to ensure that all eligible institutions are adequately covered. 2008 will have an answer for us. We anticipate 10 scholarship recipient for each class and expect a scholarship burden of about 500,000 francs CFA per scholarship class and 2.5 Million every academic year when our program is fully standing. We anticipate shouldering another 500,000 to 1.0 million cost per annum in developing the other arms of the MFSI mission and vision. The future would tell.

Financially, MFSI has been making strides. In February 2007, MFSI opened an account with the TCF bank (Account Number: XXXXXXX1055) and had since had all donations made payable to MFSI and/or deposited directly into the MFSI account. We have received a financial power from the registration of our members. In addition, we have also received generous and tremendous donations from friends and well-wishers alike. MFSI was able to receive financial support to the tone of 1721.00 dollars and further cash pledges to the sum of 300.00 dollars. A complete list of our donors can be found in the financial document under the section ‘DONATIONS’ MFSI is constantly sharing its vision and looking for partners and more sponsors. Our constitution and working laws details what the expectations entail. MFSI has also used part of its finances in executing the business of MFSI. MFSI has used 50.00 dollars to date for State legalization and
recognition and also used 300.00 dollars to secure its Tax-exempt status. To see a complete list of our expenditures, look at the ‘EXPENDITURES’ section of our financial document. DONATIONS are on sheet one, REGISTRATION on sheet two and EXPENDITURES on sheet three.

Several members continue to act pro bono for the benefit of MFSI. We appreciate all those who have volunteered hours, made speeches at Community Colleges on behalf of MFSI, printed and/or photocopied several application forms for MFSI without receiving any financial compensation. We also want to acknowledge all those who have participated in processing MFSI mails, buying stamps and dropping our messages in the mail to some of our target audience. We also thank those who continue to make connections with other foundations. We are ever indebted. We will continue to work with friends and future relationships to establish funding and camaraderie for more of our programs. Every individual who contributed to MFSI should have received a personalized signed receipt in the mail. Please use that for your records and contact us if you need any clarifications.

As a snapshot of 2008, we anticipate a return of completed application forms by the end of March 2008. All 2007/2008 applications will be processed by June 30th 2008. Our scholarship recipients will be notified individually in direct communication as well in official communiqués. We shall have our scholarship ceremony in August 2008, which will soon become a yearly tradition for MFSI. In addition, MFSI will look to open more bank accounts with at least one in Cameroon to facilitate the receipt of contributions from individuals based in Cameroon. MFSI will also look to launch some of its support programs and services within the next few months/years depending on the availability of funds. Watch out for our upcoming MFSI brochures that are currently being developed. For 2008, my goal is to help raise at least 6000.00 dollars for the activities of MFSI. Details of our actions will be unraveled as time draws nearer.

MFSI is constantly looking for ways to be more efficient and effective while maintaining 100% transparency. We encourage every well-wisher of Mankon to consider supporting our course generously. We need both expertise in the areas of financial and human resources. For those who are considering volunteer opportunities, or wondering how they can help, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are also interested in becoming a member, do not hesitate to contact us for a copy of our by-laws and binding principles. Membership requires a financial registration commitment plus an annual dues commitment. The details are spelled out in our bylaws.

Finally, it has been a privileged having an opportunity to be of service to you, the people of Mankon in particular and the World in general. We have been humbled by your enthusiasm and show of unflinching support. We are honored to enjoy your partnership and we trust you had enjoyed the partnership as well. We look forward to more successful years.

Long Live Mankon Forum Scholarship Initiative
Long Live Mankon
Long Live Cameroon
Long Live the USA.

Sincerely
Fausta Ditah
Chair of the Mankon Forum Scholarship Initiative (MFSI).