

**Application for Recognition of Exemptior
 Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**

OMB No. 1545-0058

Note: If exempt status is approved, this application will be open for public inspection.

Read the instructions for each Part carefully.
A User Fee must be attached to this application.
 If the required information and appropriate documents are not submitted along with Form 8718 (with payment of the appropriate user fee), the application may be returned to you.
Complete the Procedural Checklist on page 8 of the instructions.

Part I Identification of Applicant

1a Full name of organization (as shown in organizing document) ASIA CONNECTION INC.		2 Employer identification number (EIN) (If none, see page 3 of the Specific Instructions.) 59 : 3619790
1b c/o Name (if applicable)		3 Name and telephone number of person to be contacted if additional information is needed WILLIAM ROSE (813) 885 6193
1c Address (number and street) 4532 W. KENNEDY BLVD.	Room/Suite 262	
1d City, town, or post office, state, and ZIP + 4. If you have a foreign address, see Specific Instructions for Part I, page 3. TAMPA FL. 33609-2042		4 Month the annual accounting period ends DECEMBER
1e Web site address		5 Date incorporated or formed January 5, 2000
7 Did the organization previously apply for recognition of exemption under this Code section or under any other section of the Code? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes," attach an explanation.		6 Check here if applying under section: a <input type="checkbox"/> 501(e) b <input type="checkbox"/> 501(f) c <input type="checkbox"/> 501(k) d <input type="checkbox"/> 501(n)
8 Is the organization required to file Form 990 (or Form 990-EZ)? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach an explanation (see page 3 of the Specific Instructions).		
9 Has the organization filed Federal income tax returns or exempt organization information returns? . . . <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes," state the form numbers, years filed, and Internal Revenue office where filed.		

10 Check the box for the type of organization. ATTACH A CONFORMED COPY OF THE CORRESPONDING ORGANIZING DOCUMENTS TO THE APPLICATION BEFORE MAILING. (See Specific Instructions for Part I, Line 10, on page 3.) See also Pub. 557 for examples of organizational documents.)

- a Corporation—Attach a copy of the Articles of Incorporation (including amendments and restatements) showing approval by the appropriate state official; also include a copy of the bylaws.
- b Trust— Attach a copy of the Trust Indenture or Agreement, including all appropriate signatures and dates.
- c Association— Attach a copy of the Articles of Association, Constitution, or other creating document, with a declaration (see instructions) or other evidence the organization was formed by adoption of the document by more than one person, also include a copy of the bylaws.

If the organization is a corporation or an unincorporated association that has not yet adopted bylaws, check here

I declare under the penalties of perjury that I am authorized to sign this application on behalf of the above organization and that I have examined this application, including the accompanying schedules and attachments, and to the best of my knowledge it is true, correct, and complete.

Please Sign Here


 (Signature)

William E. Rose, Co-Director, Aug 1, 2000
 (Type or print name and title or authority of signer) (Date)

Part II Activities and Operational Information

- 1 Provide a detailed narrative description of all the activities of the organization—past, present, and planned. Do not merely refer to or repeat the language in the organizational document. List each activity separately in the order of importance based on the relative time and other resources devoted to the activity. Indicate the percentage of time for each activity. Each description should include, as a minimum, the following: (a) a detailed description of the activity including its purpose and how each activity furthers your exempt purpose; (b) when the activity was or will be initiated; and (c) where and by whom the activity will be conducted.

BACKGROUND

During the years of the Viet Nam conflict a number of civilian volunteers were active as health and refugee relief workers in Kontum Province in the Central Highlands. They were from several non-governmental organizations and many countries, but most were American. All were peace-minded, and all were trying literally as well as figuratively to help heal the wounds of war. Two of the agencies represented were the Minh Quy Hospital Foundation (based in Seattle to provide funding for Dr. Patricia Smith's Minh Quy Hospital, providing a specific outreach to the neglected tribal minorities of the Kontum area); and Viet Nam Christian Service (a combined effort by Lutheran World Relief, the Mennonite Central Committee, and the National Council of Churches to undertake Peace Corps-type health and welfare projects throughout South Viet Nam).

At the conclusion of the war both organizations disbanded. The tribal minorities (familiarily known as 'Montagnards') were now the wards of the People's Republic of Viet Nam. The Catholic Church, which was still allowed to function in 'post-liberation' Viet Nam (although all expatriate priests and nuns were expelled by the new government) addressed the Montagnards' spiritual needs and, to some extent, health and welfare concerns as well. But Montagnards continue to have a hard lot. They are not held in high esteem by ethnic Vietnamese in general and by the government in particular. Their rights of land ownership are problematical, and their traditional village life has been disrupted by the present government just as it had been by the 'pre-liberation' government during the wartime years.

As conditions in post-war Viet Nam improved and restrictions on travel were relaxed, a number of former volunteers were able to renew contacts with old friends and eventually visit Kontum. It was clear that living conditions there were notably worse than in other areas of the Central Highlands. In 1995 a reunion of former volunteers was held in Seattle, and we decided to form a loose organization to try and reach out to old friends and colleagues in Kontum: to re-establish regular communication at the very least, and possibly to help fund some of the ongoing works of the Catholic Church (e.g. orphanages, a clinic, water wells, a school for home economics).

(Continued ---)

- 2 What are or will be the organization's sources of financial support? List in order of size.

Personal assets: gifts donated by Dr. Elizabeth Rose, Hilary Smith, and William Rose. Smaller donations will also be forthcoming from members of 'Friends of Kontum'.

- 3 Describe the organization's fundraising program, both actual and planned, and explain to what extent it has been put into effect. Include details of fundraising activities such as selective mailings, formation of fundraising committees, use of volunteers or professional fundraisers, etc. Attach representative copies of solicitations for financial support.

At this point no organized fund-raising efforts aimed at the general public are planned. Voluntary contributions from concerned individuals will be accepted (e.g. 'Friends of Kontum' --- sample newsletters attached).

Since the inception of the group (known as 'Friends of Kontum') voluntary contributions have been made by members, and there have been numerous visits to Kontum to renew old relationships and hand-deliver small amounts of money and medical supplies. Asia Connection Inc. was conceived partly as a vehicle to distribute funds from members of the group. It has no formal link with 'Friends of Kontum' (which has no plans to incorporate). It will serve the same target population in Central Viet Nam; but the overall scope of its concern will be broader, providing support for a number of projects elsewhere in Asia. Examples:

- Dr. George Pradhan, who was a volunteer with Viet Nam Christian Service and also with Minh Quy Hospital during the war years, is presently working with a group called 'Centre for Action and Research Training' which has set up a clinic in Orissa, India to provide emergency relief following a major typhoon. Funds have already been sent to this organization.
- Devadoss Maddimadugu, another former Viet Nam Christian Service volunteer who is now a Protestant pastor in Andhra Pradesh, India, is hoping to organize a much-needed clinic for the people of his parish. A contribution from Asia Connection Inc. has been sent.
- Dr. Edric Baker of New Zealand was a surgeon at Minh Quy Hospital. He now administers a medical training and treatment center in rural Bangladesh which serves a population of 200,000 and which depends on outside support.
- Ms. Dy Ratha is a courageous and energetic war widow who operates an AIDS outreach program in Phnom Penh under the auspices of Indradevi, a Cambodian NGO which also relies on outside funding.

All of the above are situations in which we have a first-hand familiarity with the projects themselves or else a personal association with those who are involved, and can vouch for the integrity of the endeavor. In supporting such activities we hope to serve as a 'point of light,' bringing support to small-scale health and welfare projects throughout Asia.

OUTLOOK

Asia Connection Inc. will be a shoestring operation. Funds are forthcoming from friends and family of the Directors, and at this point no money-raising activities aimed at the general public are envisaged. Operating expenses will be kept to a minimum. Postage, office supplies, fees for phone and fax and office space are being provided out of pocket. Directors serve on a pro bono basis. It is anticipated that any overseas or domestic travel required for meetings or delivering supplies will continue to be self-funded. At this point the only overhead costs have been banking fees, so that nearly all our resources go to meet program needs overseas.

A listing of projects assisted by Friends of Kontum/Asia Connection Inc. would include:

- Sister Gabrielle's clinic (funds for medicine and supplies)
- Father Nen's invalid shelter (funds for construction, medicine and supplies)
- Sister Marie Madeleine's orphanage (funds for food)
- Sister Marie Jose's home economics class (sewing machines)
- funding for construction of two water-wells at Plei Dong resettlement village
- C.A.R.T. clinic in Orissa, India
- rural clinic near Hyderabad, India

A breakdown of Asia Connection Inc.'s administrative activities would be roughly as follows:

FUNCTION:	AMOUNT OF TIME & EFFORT:
- meetings & communication among Directors by phone, letter and e-mail (Kerry H., Hilary S., Bill R.)	25%
- correspondence with overseas beneficiaries by letter & e-mail (Hilary S., Bill R.)	25%
- writing reports & recommendations (Bill R.)	25%
- bookkeeping (Bill R.)	25%

CONCLUSION

Conferring tax-exempt status upon Asia Connection Inc. would be a form of recognition of the spontaneous charitable activities which members of Friends of Kontum have been conducting in an informal way for several years. And it might also serve as a stimulus for more contributions from those who have a special concern for the people of Asia.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (AMENDED 12 JANUARY 2001 - *RL*)

Asia Connection Inc.'s activities will not violate U.S. laws or policies, and will not knowingly violate the laws or policies of any foreign country. Contributions to Asia Connection Inc. will be disbursed according to wishes of the contributing parties in conjunction with Asia Connection Inc. directors, based on appeals and needs in the target areas; all activities supported by Asia Connection Inc. must be consistent with 501(c)(3) guidelines and objectives. There will be no earmarking of donations in a way that encourages unfair or inappropriate rewards among clients or program workers.

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