

## **Japan Association Montessori**

### **Luhmer-Montessori Memorial Fund – Articles of Endowment**

(Endowment of a Luhmer-Montessori Memorial Fund)

#### **Article 1**

The Japan Association Montessori, hereinafter called „the Association“, under Article 4 (4) of its Charter, and in order to commemorate the achievements of Father Klaus Luhmer S.J., who as President and Chairmen of the Association from 1977 to 2007 devoted his life to the promotion and development of Montessori education, sets up a Luhmer-Montessori Memorial Fund, hereinafter called „the Fund“.

(Purpose)

#### **Article 2**

To foster the development of Montessori education, the income from this Fund shall be used to promote the study of Montessori education.

(2) Each fiscal year, a certain number of people will be designated as recipients of grants from the Fund.

#### **Article 3**

(Endowment)

The Fund will be endowed with an initial gift by the Association of 10 million Yen.

(Investment)

#### **Article 4**

The assets of the Fund are to be invested in saving accounts, bank deposits, trust funds and other safe and sound investment instruments.

(2) The initial endowment shall be increased by gifts and undisbursed income of the Fund.

(Administration)

#### **Article 5**

The assets of the Fund shall be administered by the office of the Association under the guidance of the Executive Directors of the Association.

(2) All expenses necessary for the administration of the Fund are to be covered by the budget of the Association.

(3) To change the purpose of the Fund, a two thirds majority of all Directors of the Association is required.

(Size of grants)

#### **Article 6**

The size of grants is, in principle, limited to the income from the Fund.

(2) The amount of grants disbursed can be increased by budgetary allocations of the Association.

(Screening Committee)

Article 7

The Association sets up a Screening Committee to select the recipients of grants.

(2) Each fiscal year the screening expenses must be budgeted and approved by the Executive Directors of the Association.

(Structure of the Screening Committee)

Article 8

The Board of Directors of the Association selects by mutual vote up to five members as Screening Committee.

(2) By virtue of his/her office the Chairperson of the Editorial Board of the Association will be a member of the Screening Committee.

(3) The term of office for members of the Screening Committee is two years. Re-election is not excluded.

(4) The Chairperson of the Screening Committee shall be elected by mutual vote among its members.

(Revision and abrogation of these articles)

Article 9

In case the Association is dissolved, or if other factors render implementation of the Fund's purpose impossible, the Board of Directors of the Association shall revise or abrogate these Articles.

(Additional Clause)

These Articles shall come into force from August 4, 2012.

## **How the „Luhmer-Montessori Memorial Fund“ was established**

In the 1960s Montessori education experienced a revival in Japan. During this time, in 1968, the Japan Association Montessori (JAM) was founded. From its start Father Klaus Luhmer, S.J., served as Vice-Chairman, then, from 1977 as elected Chairman. For the next thirty years he devoted himself to the strengthening and growth of the Association. When he died on March 1, 2011, he had amassed a surplus of 30 million Yen for the Association.

At the annual Board of Directors meeting of the Association on August 4, 2011, Ms. Tamako Amano, one of the Executive Board members, proposed the establishment of a special fund to commemorate Father Luhmer. Father Domenico Vitali, S.J., too, then Vice-Chairman of the Association, suggested to utilise the surplus as a means to establish a „Luhmer Prize“ or a „Luhmer Scholarship“.

At the end of last year, on December 1, 2011, Father Vitali, Ms. Amano, and Dr. Masako Ejima, another member of the Board of Executive Directors, formulated a draft of Articles for establishing a memorial fund. They were guided by Mr. Seiichi Suzuki, then still an auditor of the Association.

Further suggestions were made at the first meeting of the Board of Executive Directors on January 21, 2012. Other discussions followed with Dr. Koichiro Maenosono, the Chairman of the Association, Ms. Hiromi Suzuku, the Director in charge of the Association's administration, Ms. Kimiko Kai, also a member of the Executive Board, Ms. Masako Yamamoto, auditor of the Association, and Father Franz-Josef Mohr, S.J., former treasurer of Sophia School Corporation, who had succeeded Mr. Seiichi Suzuki as auditor.

At the second meeting of the Board of Executive Directors on April 28, 2012, Father Toyoki Harada, the new Chairman of Shinboai Gakuen and an expert in this field, joined in finalizing the „Articles of Endowment“ for a „Luhmer-Montessori Memorial Fund.“

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association was held on August 2, 2012, in Nagoya, on the eve of the National Convention of the Association. It discussed and approved the „Articles“ and proposed their acceptance on August 4, 2012, to the annual General Meeting of the Association. This in turn approved them by unanimous acclamation.

Just as Father Luhmer always emphasized the practical side of Montessori education, so the applicants of grants from his memorial fund are expected to engage actively in the practical execution of Montessori's principles of education.

Dr. Maria Montessori endeavored all her life to work for world peace through education. We, too, oblige ourselves to work for peace in Japan and the world by following and promoting Montessori's educational principals.