

FOUNDATION OF THE “UMBRELLA KIDS” FOUNDATION



WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND?

Gunter and Karen Festel founded the “UMBRELLA KIDS” Foundation on May 9, 2016. Based on an extraordinary moment in Jakarta in 1996 where poor boys offering an umbrella service got drenched when walking behind business people using the umbrellas to protect themselves from the heavy rainfall, both have the aim to help underprivileged children, especially in Asia. The name “UMBRELLA KIDS” reflects this key moment. Both strongly believe that education is imperative for the growth of an individual as well as a society and access to education is a key to improve people's life conditions.

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO ACHIEVE?

The “UMBRELLA KIDS” Foundation was established to improve access to education for ambitious young people from low-income background, especially from developing countries. Increasing their chance of education will give them the opportunity of a better perspective in their life and to contribute to the economic development of their country.

In the first phase of the programme, the Foundation aims to award scholarships in Myanmar to support young people with the funding of a college education helping them play their role in the further development of their home country. The aim is to extend the scholarship programme to other countries, especially in Asia.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FOUNDATION?

Gunter Festel is a successful entrepreneur who has developed the Founding Angels investment model and (co-) founded, as Founding Angel, various technology start-ups in Germany and Switzerland. For example, he was co-founder and CEO of Butalco, a company developing a technology platform for the production of biofuels and biochemicals, which was sold to the French company Lesaffre in 2014. This technology enables biofuel producers to use waste material instead of food to solve the “food vs. fuel” dilemma.

Member of the board of the foundation besides Gunter and Karen Festel is Roman Boutellier who is a retired professor of the University St. Gallen as well as a retired professor and vice president of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich and former CEO of SIG, one of the largest packaging multinationals in Switzerland. He is currently board member of the AMANN Group and Georg Fischer AG and president of the board of directors of Appenzeller Cantonal Bank.

HOW TO GET IN CONTACT?

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More information under www.umbrella-kids.ch