

The NANSEN REFUGEE AWARD

Nomination Form

(Please machine-type or use block letters)

Please note: Nominations received after **30 April 2008** will not be considered for the 2008 award

Nomination submitted by

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Information on the nominee

Name: (Surname) Dunford

(First) Jack (John Edward)

Organisation:

Thailand Burma Border Consortium - TBBC

Title: Executive Director

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E-mail: jack@tbbc.org

Briefly describe the nominee's professional background:

- Jack (John Edward) Dunford MBE
- Nationality UK
- Honours: Member of the British Empire, MBE, 2001

- BSc. Exeter University, UK, Physics
- MSc. Birmingham University, UK, Traffic and Transport Planning
- MIHE. Member of the Institute of Highway Engineers, UK
- MCIT. Member of the Chartered Institute of Transport, UK.

Briefly describe why the nominee should be considered for the award:

For 23 years Jack Dunford and the staff of the Thailand Burma Border Consortium have dedicated their lives to the service of Burmese refugees living in Thailand. Jack Dunford has lived in Thailand since 1978 and began working with Indochinese refugees with the Church of Christ in Thailand in 1981. Mr. Dunford helped founding the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) in 1984 and has led the unique organisation since that time. TBBC is a Consortium of 11 non governmental organisations (NGOs) from 9 countries, registered as a charitable company in the United Kingdom. TBBC provides all of the food, non-food items and shelter for about 140,000 refugees from Burma in 9 camps along the Western Thai Border under agreement with the Thai Ministry of Interior. Under his leadership, TBBC has a budget of approximately USD 30 million for 2008 and receives funding from 14 governments, including the largest annual grant administered by European Commission Humanitarian Organisation.

TBBC is especially deserving of this reward as its service to refugees is unique in many respects. TBBC performs an exceptionally efficient and cost-effective service as most of the activities in the camps *are performed by the refugees themselves*. This unique model is not only sustainable and allows the refugees to maintain their dignity despite their situation, but also economises badly needed funds and offers work opportunities for many refugees who are otherwise prohibited from working in Thailand. TBBC also assists and carries out research and documentation of the situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Eastern Burma. The TBBC model has been a subject of a number of studies which overwhelmingly agree that the effectiveness of the TBBC programme and the approach inclusive of the displaced communities is unmatched in other protected refugee situations.

Jack Dunford is also Chairperson of the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced persons in Thailand (CCSDPT) which is the coordinating body for all 20 NGOs working with Burmese Refugees in Thailand, through which the Royal Thai Government dictates policy and administers activities. Jack has chaired CCSDPT Burma activities since the beginning of the emergency in 1984.

The commitment of Jack Dunford, his Deputy Director Sally Thompson and the rest of the TBBC Team is remarkable in the world of humanitarian service, and their years of dedication and sacrifice have inspired all around them. At a time when the people of Burma are more hard pressed than ever, whilst both new generations are born in the camps without having seen their homeland, and new refugees continue to flee political persecution, TBBC has managed to fulfil the highest principles of international refugee and human rights law, and has created a model where the refugees are able to live their lives in dignity – in spite of not being able to enjoy the freedoms the rest of us enjoy: freedom to study, work, travel, and live in peace. The contributions of Mr. Dunford and TBBC have touched literally hundreds of thousands of lives.

It is therefore my firmly held belief that Jack Dunford and the staff of TBBC deserve the 2008 Nansen Refugee Award.

