Global Ethic Foundation
Activities of the year 2006

Continuity and innovation – these are the keywords that describe the activities of the Global Ethic Foundation in the year 2006. Time-tested activities and programmes continued to be pursued, but also new promising contacts developed in various regions of the world, and, new partners in cooperation have opened up new thematic areas. Thus continuity and innovation are reflected in this yearly report.

The future of the Foundation

Since December 2006, a joint “strategic group” representing the German and Swiss foundations has been giving thought to the question of how the Global Ethic Foundation can continue to fulfil its diverse tasks over the middle- and long-term range and of how it can respond to new challenges. Reference is to the content of the work, as well as to the finances.

Global Ethic International

An important event for the Global Ethic project occurred during the 8th World Conference on Religion and Peace in Kyoto, Japan (WCRP VIII, 26–29, August, 2006). The more than 500 delegates to the world-wide inter-religious organisation “Religions for Peace” (RfP, formerly WCRP) agreed almost unanimously to make the Declaration toward a global ethic (Chicago 1993) the ethical basis for the work of their organisation. Prof. Küng and Dr. Gebhardt took part in the conference. Prof. Küng held one of the principal lectures before an audience of some 2000 participants in the solemn opening meeting.

Promising new contacts have emerged in South America, which are expected to give birth to concrete activities and pilot projects in 2007:

- Brazil: Starting with the UNISINOS University in Sao Leopoldo (mediated by Prof. Paolo Soethe, Curitiba), contacts have been made to other institutions active in the area of ethic, religion and the economy.
− **Columbia**: Here too, contact began on an academic basis (Carlos Paz, lawyer and project promoter in Bogota) but has since reached out to include businessmen as well.

− **Mexico**: Here a Global Ethic Foundation Mexico has already been officially established by the businessman and philanthropist Gerardo Martinez Cristerna.

In **Russia**, the idea of a global ethic was presented to a symposium at the University of Perm/Ural attended by academic experts from all parts of Russia. Prof. Küng was invited to speak and the Philosophy Department produced a Russian translation of the *Global Ethic Declaration*.

In **Rumania**, in connection with the publication of the Rumanian translation of Prof. Küng’s book *Judaism*, public events with Prof. Küng were held at the University of Cluj-Napoca and at the Rumanian Cultural Institute in **Bucharest**.

Further international engagements brought Prof. Küng to the **Dead Sea** in Jordan (for a meeting of the InterAction Council of Former Heads of State and of Government) as well as to **Lausanne**, **Madrid**, **Santander**, **Milan**, and **Nimwegen**. Within Germany, Prof. Küng held important lectures at the computer fair CEBIT in **Hannover**, at an educational congress in **Ulm**, at the “Nuremberg Forum” on inter-religious pedagogy in **Nuremberg**, at the Karl-Rahner-Academy in **Cologne**, at an international congress “100 Years since the discovery of the Alzheimer Disease” in **Tübingen**, and at the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in **Berlin**.

**Prof. Karl-Josef Kuschel**, Vice President of the Foundation, at the invitation of the German / East Asian Scientific Forum of the University of Tübingen, took part in a symposium in **Hong Kong**. In addition to his regular teaching duties at the University of Tübingen, he also held a guest lecture at the University of **Basel**, as well as various lectures in several German cities, among them **Münster**, **Berlin** (at the Iranian Embassy), **Saarbrücken** (at the Catholic Congress), **Munich**, **Mannheim** and **Kiel** (“Day of the Religions”).

**Dr. Stephan Schlensog**, alongside his diverse organisational, conceptual and logistic tasks as General Secretary of the Foundation, has also held lectures throughout Germany. He is principally responsible for the conception and realisation of the Internet learning program and for putting together a workbook for use in the schools.

**Dr. Günther Gebhardt**, alongside his work as personal assistant to Prof. Küng, has been active as a lecturer or conference moderator in diverse German cities, among them **Munich**, **Nuremberg**, **Bamberg**, **Stuttgart**, **Offenburg**, as well as in **Graz** (“Day of Creation”) and in two conferences in **Innsbruck**, among them an interdisciplinary symposium “Ethics in the Age of Globalisation”. Together with Prof. Küng, he took part in the 8th Congress of Religions for Peace in **Kyoto, Japan**.
Dr. Martin Bauschke, representative of the Foundation in Berlin and the new federal states (50%) took charge of the travelling exhibition “World Religions – Universal Peace – Global Ethic” in various cities of northern and eastern Germany and held lectures in schools and in meetings of diverse secular and religious institutions, among others in Münster, Chemnitz, Marburg and Glasgow.

The Global Ethic Lecture 2006

The 6th Global Ethic Lecture at the University of Tübingen was held on 10 May. The President of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Jacques Rogge, addressed the topic “Global Sport and Global Ethic” and engaged in a subsequent dialogue with Prof. Küng. Shortly before the Soccer World Championship matches in Germany, his energetic plea for fairness in sports was particularly appropriate. Jacques Rogge’s lecture can be found on the website of the Global Ethic Foundation (www.weltethos.org) and can be purchased as a DVD at the Internet Shop of the Foundation.

Global Ethic and scholarship

At two scholarly forums arranged by the Foundation in Tübingen, the global ethic idea was put to discussion in a broad interdisciplinary context:

(1) In a Scientific Working Group Global Ethic, which met on 12–13 May, a dozen experts from the fields of theology, philosophy, developmental biology and diverse areas of ethics discussed questions related to the “genesis of morality”.

(2) A Symposium “Natural Science and Religion”, which was held at the University of Tübingen from 6–8 July, brought together German and Swiss experts from theology and various branches of the natural sciences. With Hans Küng’s book Der Anfang aller Dinge (The Beginning of All Things) as their starting-point, they discussed questions of cosmology, the origin of life and the origin of mankind. The foundation’s partner of cooperation was Prof. Dr. Rolf Emmermann, Chairman of the Board of the GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam. The introductory statements dealing with 10 themes can be downloaded from the website of the Global Ethic Foundation www.weltethos.org.

In Fall 2006, Dr. Stephan Schlensog was able to publish his comprehensive study of the paradigm shifts in the history of Indian religions in the Piper Verlag as a “sequel to Prof. Küng’s religion trilogy” (see “new publications”). For this study, Dr. Schlensog was awarded his doctorate by the University of Tübingen’s School of Catholic Theology.

In the Winter Semester 2006/07, in the “Studium generale” programme, Prof. Karl-Josef Kuschel presented a series of lectures on Islam under the topic “World Religions in Literature”. In addition, he deepened his research on Thomas Mann,
where Literature and Global Ethics come to meet. He published a monograph *Weihnachten bei Thomas Mann (Christmas with Thomas Mann)* by Patmos Verlag in Düsseldorf and, for the Rotary Movement, he held two lectures on *Thomas Mann, the Rotarian Ethic and Global Ethic*.

**Dr. Markus Weingardt** completed his research project *The Peace Potential of Religions in Violent Political Conflicts*. This study, financed by the Berghof Foundation and supported by Dr. Gebhardrt of the Global Ethic Foundation, shows how religiously motivated agents successfully intervened in resolving violent conflicts in over 30 case studies from around the world. It will be published by the Kohlhammer Verlag Stuttgart in 2007 under the title *Religion – Macht – Freiheit (Religion – Power – Freedom)*.

**Dr. Hans-Martin Schönherr-Mann**, professor of political philosophy in Munich, has virtually completed his book *Weltethos in philosophischer Perspektive (Global Ethics in Philosophical Perspective)*. It is expected to be published in Spring 2008, by the Piper Verlag, Munich.

Rabbi **Dr Walter Homolka**, Potsdam, has announced his readiness to write a book on the topic *Global Ethic in Jewish Understanding*. Likewise, the Muslim religious educator **Rabeya Müller** has agreed to write a book on *Global Ethic in Muslim Understanding*.

**New publications and translations**

- The film *Exploring the tracks of the World Religions* is now available in a Japanese version by Maruzen in Tokyo.
- Hans Kung, *Judaism* has appeared in Romanian by Hasefer in Bucharest.

- Hans Küng, *Wozu Weltethos?* appeared in German in a revised and updated form by Herder in Freiburg/Breisgau and in Portuguese by Loyola, Sao Paulo, Brazil.


- The *Declaration toward a Global Ethic* can now be downloaded in 15 languages as a PDF-document from the website of the Global Ethic Foundation: ([www.weltethos.org](http://www.weltethos.org)).

In addition, in the course of 2006, members of the Foundation’s team contributed articles on the global ethic theme to various journals, collections and other publications.

**Global ethic in education and the schools**

The members of the Foundation’s team have again been active in a multitude of educational presentations in collaboration with various secular and religious partners and especially in teacher training sessions. Besides the Tübingen team composed of Dr. Stephan Schlensog, Dr. Günther Gebhardt, and Dr. Markus Weingardt, the following persons deserve special mention: Dr. Martin Bauschke (Berlin), religion teacher Walter Lange (Castrop-Rauxel). Privatdozent Johannes Rehm (Bamberg, now Nuremberg), Dr. Christel Hasselmann (Hannover), Dr. Helga Offermanns (Wiesbaden), Anke Gehrt-Woitzik and Katrin Ziesecke (Leipzig) and Prof. em. Dr. Hermann Häring (formerly Nimwegen, now Tübingen). In the training of Protestant religion teachers at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Prof. Dr. Johannes Lähnemann has, over the years, given much emphasis to the global ethic idea. Now following his retirement in Summer 2006, he continues to be active in this field.

The dates for lectures and teacher-training conferences by our team members can all be found listed on the website of the Foundation.

The development of a German language *Workbook Global Ethic* with teaching materials and draft lessons for dealing with the global ethic theme in school education has made good progress in the course of this year. Working on this project, under the direction of Dr. Schlensog, is a team of teachers composed of Walter Lange, Anke Gehrt-Woitzik and Katrin Ziesecke with contributions from other
teachers as well. This ring-book production comprising over 200 pages is expected to appear in Fall 2007.

Global Ethic on the Internet

With an average of 2500 entries a day, and growing steadily, the Internet presence of the Foundation (www.weltethos.org and the school server www.schule-weltethos.de) is on the way to becoming the Foundation's most important communication medium. Likewise, the Internet Shop, where one can purchase a broad assortment of educational materials, media and books, is increasingly popular. Shipping is free within Germany.

The Foundation’s French website has been thoroughly revised in this year thanks to the Swiss Global Ethic Foundation working under the leadership of lic. phil. Guido Baumann with the assistance of Dr. Gebhardt and Julia Willke. The new version is considerably enlarged and stylistically improved.

The work on an interactive Internet learning programme, A Global Ethic Now, has made considerable progress. Under the direction of Dr. Schlensog, this is the work in particular of Julia Willke M.A., who has been specially hired for the task. From Autumn 2008 on, it is hoped to have ready (in both English and German) this learning platform, which will deal with global ethic, the world religions, the global ethic theme in politics and the economy, and the questions of values generally.

The Exhibition “World Religions – Universal Peace – Global Ethic”

The booklet for the exposition is now available in German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia. The travelling exhibition in its diverse versions continues to enjoy great popularity, especially in Germany and Switzerland.

- In Germany, it has been shown in Arnstadt, Breitenbrunn, Aalen, Essen, Emden, Zeitz, Zwenkau, Bersenbrück, Siegen, Wittmund, Dortmund, Münster, Rottweil, Hamburg (at 2 sites), Wolfenbüttel, Brück, and Datteln. The necessary arrangements for the exposition have been made particularly by Dr. Martin Bauschke (Berlin) and Walter Lange (Castrop-Rauxel).

- In Switzerland, under the organisation of lic. phil. Guido Baumann, the exhibition has been shown in Davos, Biel/Bienne, Porrentruy, La Chaux-de-Fonds, St. Gall, Lausanne, Neuchâtel, Romanshorn, Nyon, and Morges.
In Great Britain, coordinated by Rev. Alan Race (Leicester), it has been shown in London (at two sites), Newcastle, and Brighton.

Global Ethics Foundations in Various Countries

The Global Ethics Foundations in Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic, in accordance with their own specific orientation, have likewise carried out various activities in the areas of education, schooling, and academic reflection.

In Switzerland, the principal emphasis of the Foundation has been in the French language area. The inauguration of a school competition dealing with the global ethic theme under the title “Main dans la main” (www.mdlm.ch) in Neuchâtel on 30 August attracted considerable attention in the media. The contest will be judged by a representative jury of experts and will end on 25 May 2007, with the awarding of the prizes in Lausanne. For the coordination of these and other educational activities, the executive director of the Global Ethic Foundation Switzerland, lic. phil. Guido Baumann has been responsible. Unfortunately, he plans to terminate his work of the Foundation in the middle of 2007, when he will take on a new task in Thailand. In the meantime, the business office of the Foundation has been moved to the renowned, inter-religiously oriented Lassalle-Haus in Bad Schönbrunn near Zug.

The Global Ethic Initiative Austria (www.weltethos.at) has again organized a lecture series at the University of Vienna from 9 October, 2006 to 29 January, 2007, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Erwin Bader. For this well attended lecture series with the title “Global Ethic and Globalisation”, 15 speakers from Austria and other countries were engaged. General Secretary Mag. Edith Riether organised a special working group “ethics education” to contribute to the efforts to introduce ethics teaching in Austrian schools. Independently of the Global Ethic Initiative, the “Innsbruck Forum for Scientific Research on the Global Ethic Project” under the direction of Prof. Dr. Helmut Reinalter has organised in Innsbruck from 13 to 14 October a symposium under the title “Ethic in an Age of Globalisation”, in which among others Dr. Günther Gebhardt, Prof. Hermann Häring, and Prof. Hans-Martin Schönherr-Mann took part.

In the Czech Republic, Senator Dr. Karel Floss, founder and chairman of the Czech Global Ethic Foundation, celebrated his 80th birthday. He continues to promote the global ethic idea especially in political and academic circles and in meetings organised by the Procopius Centre in Sazava, which he heads. And he is in the process of making contacts with those responsible for school education. At the initiative of the Czech Global Ethic Foundation, the books Tracing the Way and Bridges to the Future. An Initiative of Kofi Annan have appeared in Czech translations.
In Mexico, a new Global Ethic Foundation was founded this year (see above under “Global Ethic International”. For March 2007, several events with Prof. Küng are planned in the country.

Awards

On 2 December 2006, Prof. Küng received the Lev Kopelev Prize for Peace and Human Rights 2006, “for his untiring engagement for a better understanding between the religions of the world”. In her laudation, Micheline Calmy-Ray, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, called for a “cosmo-political ethic” as the foundation for living together and for political activity. The speech can be read on the homepage of the Global Ethic Foundation.

Friends of the Foundation

Since the first years of the Foundation, interested persons have been able to join an organisation known as “The Friends of the Global Ethic Foundation” with a nominal yearly membership fee and thus have been kept informed about the work of the foundation. This organisation has been led by Mr. Volker Hollman (Tübingen). Now, however, comprehensive, up-to-date information about the Foundation is available free on the Internet. And the payment of membership fees by the friends of the Foundation has proven unreliable. Thus the work of looking after the Friends organization has proven disproportionately laborious and unproductive, not the least financially. For this reason, the Board of the Foundation has decided to dissolve the Friends organisation at the end of 2007. We hope this decision will be understood by all members, and we thank Mr. Hoffmann heartily for his reliable engagement over the many years.

Further information about the Global Ethic Foundation, its on-going activities and current publications, as well as working materials and a comprehensive bibliography can be found on the Internet under www.weltethos.org.

Thanks to the Advisors of the Foundations

We wish to extend our special gratitude to the advisors of our Foundations in Germany and Switzerland. The Board of Advisors Germany has supported the Foundation in word and deed since the very beginnings. Unfortunately, one of the most important advisors, Prof. Dr. Norbert Kloten, economist at the Tübingen University, died this year. The current members of the Advisory Board are: Dr. Peter Adloff (company member of the Robert Bosch Industrie-Treuhand KG) Prof. Dr. Heinz Dieter Assmann (Director of the Juristisches Seminar of the University of
Only a few years ago, a Board of Advisors was established in Switzerland for the Swiss Foundation. Its members are: lic. iur. Hans Ambühl (General Secretary of the Conference of Cantonal Education Directors), former Ständerätin Christine Beerli (Directress of the Fachhochschule Biel), lic. oec. Adrian Gut (CEO Horizon21 Management Services), Dr. Erwin Koller (retired Department Director of Swiss Television), Prof. Dr. Klaus Leisinger (President and CEO of the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development), Prof. Dr. Frido Mann (theologian and author), former Ständerat Prof. Dr. Gilles Petitpierre (University of Geneva), Prof. Dr. Alois Riklin (University of St. Gall), Dr. Robert Sutz (former General Director of the UBS).

Our Team

In 2006 as in the past, all of the diverse activities of the Global Ethic Foundation could only be carried out thanks to the immense engagement of the entire team. Particular thanks go to the secretariat with the Chief Secretary Inge Baumann aided on a part-time basis by her predecessor Eleanore Henn. Foundation Assistant Anette Stuber-Rousselle, M.A., is principally responsible for the preparation of extensive manuscripts and for keeping the bibliography up to date. Dr. Markus Weingardt is responsible for book-keeping, but also serves as a speaker on occasion. Julia Willke, M.A., has been hired particularly for the work on the Internet learning programme. Valuable practical work is done by our student assistants, Carina Geldhauser (till Autumn 2006) and Ulf Günnewig (since Autumn 2006) and our high-school student helper Katja Flatters.

The Global Ethic Foundation takes this opportunity to thank all of its friends and supporters for their valuable contributions so indispensable for the Foundation. Even the smallest contribution constitutes a large assistance for the work of our Foundation.

Tübingen, February 2007

Dr. Günther Gebhardt