



Annual Report 2006

Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace





In a year in which climate change, wars and violence caused millions of **people** to experience despair, the GHFP continued to explore ways to **create hope...**

2006 saw the Foundation move to new premises to expand its work in exploring key social issues. Board member Professor Garrett Thomson was invited to be the Director of Research for the year of 2006/2007. He was joined by other board members and researchers from outside of the GHFP to form a core team whose brief is to investigate crucial questions in the three key areas of concern identified in the GHFP's mission: inter-religious dialogue, education and livelihood.

In the past year there have been two changes in the composition of the GHFP Board. After 2 years Rosanne Le Roy has had to step down from being a member of the Executive Board. The Foundation deeply appreciates Rosanne's devotion to the GHFP's beliefs and mission; her passion for resolving development issues has been of great value in focusing our work.

We are pleased to welcome Scherto Gill onto the board as a full member. She also continues to serve as our executive secretary and research fellow.

Now into the tenth year since the creation of the Foundation, we feel that the foundation has made progress with its work to nurture human development in both large and small ways. In particular, we continue to provide space and opportunities for individuals and organisations to strive for change, innovation and transformation.

INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FOR PEACE

The Foundation believes that inter-religious dialogue is a key to mutual understanding, humility and hope. Therefore, during 2006, the GHFP initiated an investigation into aspects of inter-religious understanding; continued to contribute to the publication of literature on spirituality; participated in inter-religious dialogues; and also sponsored research in this area.

Research into spirituality

Our research into inter-religious understanding has focused on the investigation of how spirituality and religions impact on contemporary life, including an exploration of values and assumptions that underpin science, morality and economics.

InterWorldView Project

The GHFP is interested in how to create spaces that allow individuals and groups to come together for dialogue. We see exchange about religious beliefs and worldviews as leading to better understanding. This year we were delighted to provide sponsorship towards the launch of the Interworldview project, which aims to foster dialogue through education.

According to the project team: **The concept of Interworldview emphasises implicitly dialogue between individuals who uphold different worldviews as well as an internal dialogue within an individual who is seeking to make sense of various worldviews, either for intellectual or spiritual reasons.**

InterWorldView is a web-based educational service and consulting project. It provides its worldwide users with curriculum design, course materials, teacher training and tailored consulting services for religious education, inter-religious dialogue, conflict transformation and peace-building.



Publication of literature on spirituality

Part of the GHFP's mission is to support the development of understanding that facilitates peace. To this end, since 1996 the Foundation has sponsored the publication of a variety of literature on spirituality. One such ongoing project is the translation of the words of Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo from Indonesian into English and other languages. These writings explore the foundations of religious experience and offer an understanding of human beings' relationship with the material world during their spiritual journey.

This year the Foundation also financed the publication and dissemination within Indonesia of Indonesian language editions of books and other literature written by Muhammad Subuh.

Other work in inter-religious dialogue

The GHFP continues to collaborate with other organisations to support inter-religious understanding. Examples of this include giving an annual grant to the Harvard Divinity School (HDS) towards its investigation in this area, and participation in the Eighth World Assembly of Religions for Peace.

Second World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace



Seville - Spain
19 – 22 March 2006

Following the success of the unprecedented first Congress of Imams and Rabbis For Peace in Brussels in 2005, this year, the GHFP continued to provide financial sponsorship to the second rare face-to-face forum between Muslim and Jewish leaders. The event has been initiated and organised by Homme De Parole, a Paris based peace foundation dedicated to renewing dialogue between men.

The second Congress has brought together more than 150 representatives from Islamic and Jewish communities in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States and is considered to be the world's only formal mechanism for debate between leaders of the two religions. The thematic focus of the 2006 Congress gave priority to the promotion and implementation of education and knowledge - including the teaching of peace.

"We have more common elements than elements which pull us apart," the chief rabbi of Israel, Yona Metzger, said at the opening of the four-day congress. Ahmad Taoufiq, the religious affairs minister of Morocco, condemned Islamic terrorism and said Muslim leaders are sometimes silent when attacks occur. "We have to separate ourselves from trends which are dividing the world into darkness and light" he said.

In a message to the congress, the UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan pointed out that the problem of conflict is never the faith, it is how we behave towards each other. He said to the participants: "As teachers and guides, you can be powerful agents of change. You can inspire people to new levels of commitment and public service. You can help bridge the chasms of ignorance, fear and misunderstanding."

'While modern politics has impacted negatively upon the relationship, our two religions share the most fundamental values of faith in the One Almighty whose name is Peace.'

Photos by: Jérôme Paillon, Hommes De Parole.

'We have more common elements than elements which pull us apart.'



Indeed, despite occasional heated discussions and confrontational debates inside the conference rooms, the Congress saw more friendly and memorable moments in less formal interaction, such as in the hallways, lobby and the dining room. For most of the religious leaders participating in the Congress, it was the first time that they met people of the other religion. Therefore, the event has been a significant further step towards genuine Jewish-Muslim dialogue.

At conclusion, the congress presented a closing statement, drafted by an eight-member steering committee. It asserted that: "There is no inherent conflict between Islam and Judaism" and declared that: "While modern politics has impacted negatively upon the relationship, our two religions share the most fundamental values of faith in the One Almighty whose name is Peace."



The Garden of Forgiveness, Beirut, Lebanon



Photo provided by: Garden of Forgiveness

Forgiveness as a Peace Process

The Foundation has continued to support board member Alexandra Asseily's research and work in developing forgiveness as the key to conflict transformation and peace.

Alexandra's work is based on many years' reflection on the individual's responsibility for perpetuating violence. This has led to her understanding the significance of ancestral influences and 'embodied memory' across generations in the history of conflict and trauma.

Alexandra was the inspiration behind the Garden of Forgiveness in Beirut, Lebanon. She had a vision to create a place for contemplation and forgiveness. She also introduced this concept to the Sacred City project in New York, whose participants plan to create a Garden of Forgiveness at or near Ground Zero. Overall, the Gardens of Forgiveness are envisioned as sacred spaces that can provide opportunities for forgiveness.

In June, Alexandra's paper entitled 'Breaking the Cycles of Violence' was presented at the conference 'Breaking the Cycle: Civil Wars in Lebanon', organised by the Centre for Lebanese Studies, London and held at Beit Meri, Lebanon on 7-8 June 2006.

The Foundation is committed to helping more people develop an understanding of forgiveness as a peace process, and empowering individuals and groups to reflect on their own role in creating peace in the world.



"The cycle of violence occurs when a person or group reacts with a feeling of grievance and/or violent intent in reaction to someone else's violence."

EDUCATION FOR HUMAN POTENTIAL

One of GHFP's goals is to understand how education helps individuals develop their full human potential. In addition to research and project sponsorship, the Foundation has engaged in two series of educational conferences: the International Educators' conferences and Vittachi International conferences.



Research in education

Over the last few years the Foundation has investigated 'human-centred education' which focuses on nurturing human qualities in the learner as a whole person, and on facilitating their full development: intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual.

In September 2006, Professor Garrett Thomson and Dr Scherto Gill embarked upon a project that aims to explore in what ways state secondary education in England might benefit from the idea of human-centred education. The focus of

the research is the schooling given to 14-18 year-olds.

This research is based mainly on initial reviews of existing literature and research reports, and draws on information from a number of databases about young people. Also the researchers will visit schools in England and other countries in Europe, and interview teachers, parents and young people in secondary education.

MA programme in person-centred education (PCE)

In October 2006, the GHFP, in collaboration with the Sussex School of Education, University of Sussex, launched an innovative MA programme for the study of Person-Centred Education. It is concerned with the development of the whole person and how to enable each individual to flourish through learning communities, in which teachers and students relate to each other as persons rather than merely as role occupants.

The MA programme strives to be person-centred in its values, intellectual intentions and content. It is intended for educators who have a need to reflect upon and deepen their understanding of learning. Participants in the programme explore the notion of person-centredness in terms of its philosophical and theoretical underpinnings, educational pedagogy and practices.

This MA is a response to the British government's recent educational reform which calls for learning to be more personalised. The MA students' research and exploration is expected to contribute to the new understanding of person-centred learning agenda in British education.

The MA is jointly facilitated by the GHFP and the University of Sussex.



International Conference 'Rethinking Educational Change'

Following the success of the first two Vittachi conferences, the Foundation developed the concept for a third event entitled 'Rethinking Educational Change'. The goals of the conference were to explore institutional renewal in higher education, learning and human development, and to provide participants with space for empowerment and transformation.

The conference was hosted by Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, in Morocco in July 2006. Around 150 people from 37 countries attended the conference. The event was a combination of small group work, discussions and experiential workshops regarding the role of transformation in education, human development and social change.

According to the participants' feedback, the conference was a success on many levels. Many individuals reported having gone through a process of personal change. One person summarised this as follows:

This has been an amazing, unique learning opportunity and a transformative experience for me. I also met some of the most wonderful people from all over the world. May the love and warmth that brought us to Morocco always be there to remind us of our responsibility for peace and respect for human life and to help us appreciate our unique ways and ensure that education continues as a transformative tool towards sustainable development and growth.

As part of the conference follow-up, the GHFP created a web portal www.transformedu.org to summarise the main proceedings and provide an online forum for participants to continue the discussions about learning and transformation and thus further explore innovation in higher education across cultures.

Furthermore, Scherto Gill analysed the insights generated from the conference discussions and developed a tentative intellectual framework for transformative education. This is to be published in 2007 as a book entitled *Transformation Through Education*.

'This has been an amazing, unique learning opportunity and a transformative experience for me...'



Articles published in educational journals

The person who teaches

The GHFP report from its 2005 conference, which focused on investigating teachers' personal and professional development, was published in September this year in the educational journal "FORUM" as part of its special edition on teachers' identity. In this article Scherto Gill argues that teachers' personal and professional development is mutually constitutive and mutually enhanced. It highlights the importance of providing opportunities for teachers to share and critically engage with each other's life stories and learning biographies.

Co-operative culture in the New School

As part of her one-year research at the Lewes New School, Scherto Gill co-authored with Stephanie Davies-Arai a report which was published by "Snapshots", a Journal of Innovation in Education which has a worldwide circulation. This article describes how the school creates a learning environment characterised by relationships of care, respect and co-operation among individuals.

International network for Human-Centred Education

After the GHFP's 2005 International Educators' conference, the Foundation established a small worldwide network of teachers and projects committed to human-centred education in order to encourage mutual support and feedback. This network is web-based, (www.human-edu.net) with an online interactive forum where educators are able to exchange ideas and share practices.



Photo provided by: Pesta School

Educational project support

This year the GHFP has continued to support to a number of educational projects, from which we hope to gain insights relevant to our investigations.

Colegio Amanecer

For a number of years the GHFP has sponsored educational innovation in Colegio Amanecer Nuestra Señora de Fatimahs, located in a rural area of Colombia. The school aims to nurture the inner state of well-being in the children by helping them to connect with and admire the beauty of the surrounding natural environment.

Colegio Amanecer also focuses on fostering children's self-esteem, helping young people, in particular those who have previously had emotional wounds, to heal themselves from inside. By providing an environment that is caring and loving, allowing children to be free from fear of failure, punishment, and blame, the school aims to bring out their innate curiosity.

The GHFP's grant for Colegio Amanecer ensures continuity for the school's long-term implementation of these ideas.

The GHFP was one of the organisations that sponsored the making of a documentary about the Pesta's educational philosophy and about the projects that have been inspired by these ideas and practices.

Pastalozzi School in Ecuador

The Pastalozzi School was founded by Rebeca and Mauricio Wild, Swiss educators who have developed a pedagogy that respects the child's motivation to learn and pace of development. They set up the Pastalozzi School near Quito in Ecuador, which flourished as a community learning centre and nurtured the growth of many children and young people from socially and economically deprived families. For a number of years, the Foundation has taken a keen interest in their approach to education. In particular, the 'Pesta' way of encouraging children's self discovery and autonomy in learning has helped the GHFP in its own exploration of human-centred education.

Unfortunately, due to the pressure of government regulations to standardise all schools, the Pesta School was forced to close in 2005. However, it has re-established itself as a community learning centre, with open access to all adults and children within the community.

The GHFP was one of the organisations that sponsored the making of a documentary about the Pesta's educational philosophy and about the projects that have been inspired by these ideas and practices. This film documented the diverse learning experiences of children and young people who have been educated in 'Centers for Autonomous Activities' in many provinces throughout Ecuador. These centres are inspired by the vision of the Pastalozzi School and use the same approaches.





Educational innovation at the Lewes New School

Lewes New School in the UK has gone through a seven-year journey in establishing a school community in which human relationships are the key to education. The basis of its work is the idea that 'children are developing human beings in their own right and deserve to be communicated with in a mutually respectful and emotionally honest way' (www.lewesnewschool.co.uk).

Since its inception, the Foundation has supported the school's initiatives for educational innovation. In 2006, the GHFP made a contribution to help the school develop its respectful communication model. This model is proving effective in creating a community in which all members are respected as individuals, and which allows for each child to develop a sense of self and awareness of others. As such, the school is regarded as an extension of home by the children and parents.

'children are developing human beings in their own right and deserve to be communicated with in a mutually respectful and emotionally honest way'

Photo provided by: Lewes New School

LIVELIHOOD FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES

The GHFP's work in livelihood is centred around such questions as 'How can work contribute to meeting human needs within the context of an economic system?'. This year we continued to support and strengthen our connections with a number of development projects worldwide.



OneWorld International Foundation's Satu Dunia Project

For several years the GHFP has been supporting various projects of the OneWorld International Foundation (OWIF), a prominent, grassroots, web-based news agency whose aims include building a more just global society and promoting awareness of human rights.

In 2006 the GHFP continued to fund OWIF's Satu Dunia project, which provides a knowledge platform for civil society organisations (CSOs) within Indonesia, and also between European CSOs and their Indonesian counterparts.

Satu Dunia is the OneWorld portal in the Indonesian language. It is an entry point for information on development in Indonesia. An EU funded portal, this initiative is a collaboration between a number of organisations including Hivos, Jaring Foundation (Indonesia) and OWIF. The participation of OWIF is sponsored by the GHFP.

The platform is to be used by Indonesian people and organisations to share knowledge in the areas of development, environment and civil society.

Furthermore, Satu Dunia, being part of the OneWorld global network will help Indonesian CSOs widen their outreach to partners all over the world.

The platform is to be used by Indonesian people and organisations to share knowledge in the areas of development, environment and civil society.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DEC 2006

	€ (Euros)
OPENING BALANCE	119,757.98
INCOME	651,000.00
EXPENDITURES	84,758.59
DISTRIBUTIONS TO PROJECTS	371,212.43
DISTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH	126,252.90
INVESTMENT IN NEW PREMISES	91,094.45
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	97,166.61

GUERRAND-HERMÈS FOUNDATION FOR PEACE

Founded in 1996, the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace (GHFP) is primarily a think-tank whose aim is to foster peace, harmony and understanding between people. The GHFP acts as a catalyst for change and growth in the areas of inter-religious dialogue, education, livelihood and youth.



WHAT WE DO

The GHFP works as a research institute, investigating areas of human concern in order to identify key questions and promote dialogue and discussions. Specifically, the GHFP conducts and encourages research as well as initiating and supporting projects in the areas of inter-religious dialogue, education and livelihood. The work of the projects, combined with the results of our research, serve to inform the GHFP in organising topical conferences, providing a context for changing the way people think, and transforming individuals' approach to their own life and work.

WORK WITH US

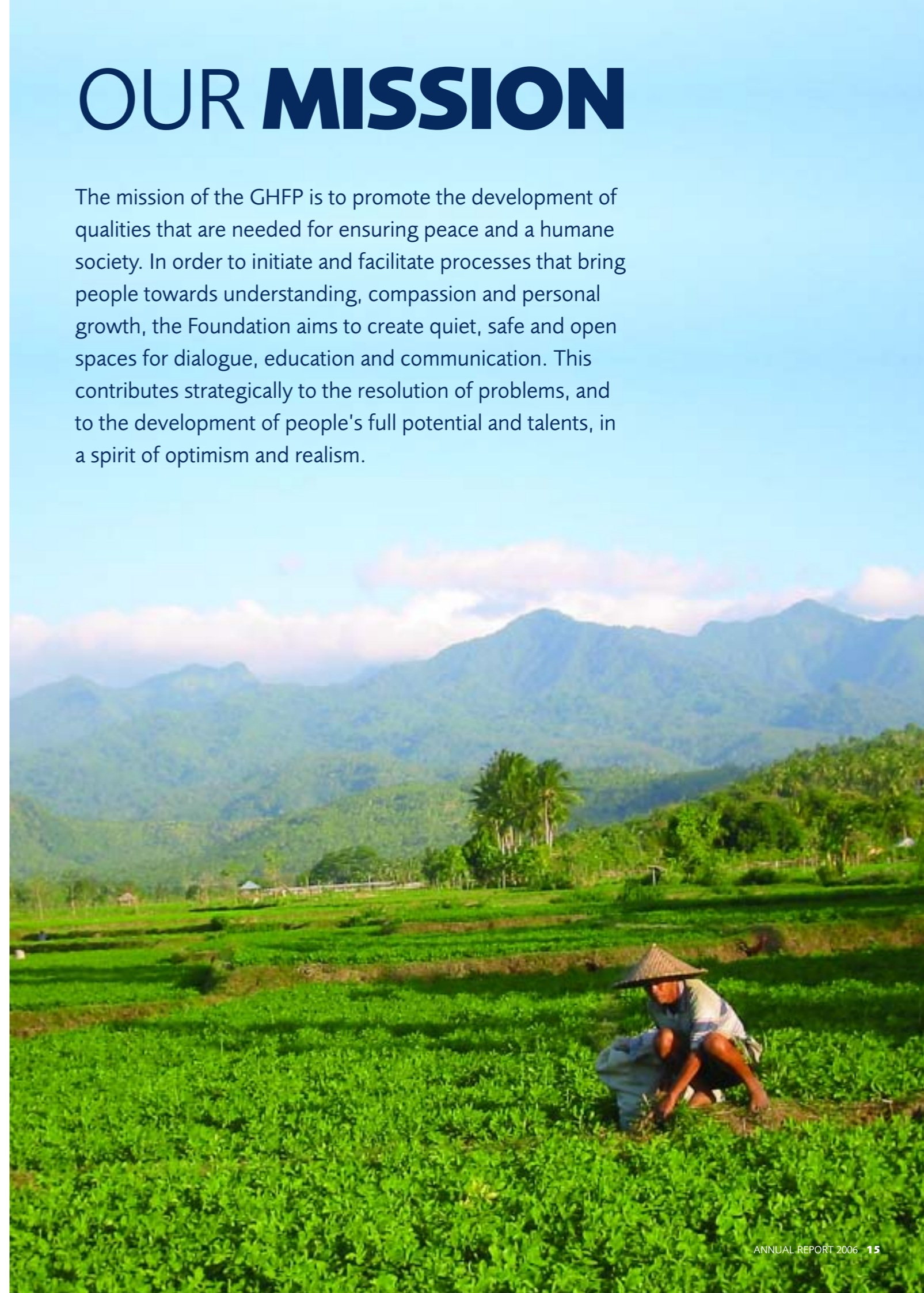
The Foundation is open to collaborating with other organisations and individuals who share or have an interest in our goals and objectives.

Ways to work with us include:

- sponsoring and participating in our research
- supporting our conferences
- internship programme

OUR MISSION

The mission of the GHFP is to promote the development of qualities that are needed for ensuring peace and a humane society. In order to initiate and facilitate processes that bring people towards understanding, compassion and personal growth, the Foundation aims to create quiet, safe and open spaces for dialogue, education and communication. This contributes strategically to the resolution of problems, and to the development of people's full potential and talents, in a spirit of optimism and realism.



Trustees

Simon Xavier Guerrand-Hermès
Hubert Guerrand-Hermès
Sharif István Horthy

Executive Board

Alexandra Asseily
Dr Patrice Brodeur
Isni Astuti Horthy
Dr Scherto Gill
Muhammad Ridwan
Prof Garrett Thomson
Hardin Tibbs

Executive Secretary

Dr Scherto Gill



Guerrand-Hermès Foundation
for Peace

Main Office

199 Preston Road,
Brighton BN1 6AW
T + 44 (0)1273 555 022
F + 44 (0) 1273 555 625
E info@ghfp.org

Paris Office

216 Boulevard St Germain
Paris 75007, France
T + 33 (01) 5363 2520
F + 33 (01) 5363 2524
E sx@ghfp.org

www.ghfp.org

Photographic credit:
Prof. Garrett Thomson