



# Annual Report 2007

Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace





## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1996, the Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace (GHFP) is primarily a think-tank whose aim is to foster peace, harmony and understanding between people, and to find innovative approaches to the pressing issues confronting today's world. The GHFP acts as a catalyst for change and growth in education, livelihood and inter-religious dialogue.



## WHAT WE DO

The GHFP also operates as a research institute, investigating areas of human concern, so that key questions for dialogue and discussions can be identified. In particular, the GHFP conducts and encourages research projects, as well as initiating and sponsoring projects in inter-religious understanding, education and livelihood. The research understanding coupled with the insights generated from the work of projects would serve to inform the GHFP in organising topical conferences. In this way, our work is intended to provide a context for changing the way people think, and transforming individuals' approach to work and life.



## WORK WITH US

The GHFP welcomes collaboration with other organisations and individuals who share an interest in our goals and objectives. There are a number of ways to work with us, including:

- sponsoring and collaborating with us in our research
- supporting and participating in our conferences
- becoming involved in our internship programme

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Sharif István Horthy

2007 marked the foundation's tenth year in Europe, and saw us moving into our first permanent home, a 17th century farmhouse facing a park in the coastal city of Brighton & Hove. We would like to think that its classic flint facade reflects the simplicity, timelessness and balance embodied in our foundation's ideals.

Over the decade that the GHFP has been pursuing innovative approaches to world problems, the way these problems are perceived has changed. The mounting evidence of man-made climate change has begun to alert public opinion to the limitations of our habitat and the need for a new mindset. In terms of pollution at least, we have already gone beyond the prudent limits to growth. But it is clear that building the political will to implement corrective action on a sufficient scale will require that we learn to think and feel in terms of humanity as a whole rather than as a set of competing tribes. This seems like a fundamental requirement for a more humane, just and peaceful world.

**'corrective action on a sufficient scale will require that we learn to think and feel in terms of humanity as a whole rather than as a set of competing tribes'**

The question of what it is to be human has been central to the GHFP's work in education, livelihood and inter-faith understanding. It seems to us that the ability to think and feel in terms of humanity as one whole is an important element of this, and may be the next step in our evolution as a species. But there are other aspects as well that we have been exploring. In education, the idea of holistic human flourishing has led us to examine the concept of learning as transformation. In the field of development, the same idea is leading us beyond economics to the value of human dignity, work and talents. In conflicts that involve religions, it is leading us to spirituality as a point of contact and mutual recognition.

The GHFP's research has continued to focus on these concerns, and we have been sponsoring programmes and projects that can help us understand them better. In 2007, we convened a thematic session and a symposium on 'Learning and Human Development' at the Oxford Conference, which served to initiate a wave of dialogue among educators on the meaning of learning and becoming in the complexity of the modern world. We also sponsored the establishment of the 'OneClimate' portal on the internet as a platform for developing shared wisdom and sustainable solutions to climate change.

We are very much aware that we are just at the beginning of our journey, for whatever we learn and understand needs to be communicated and implemented, and there is still so much we do not know. We shall continue to reach out for collaboration with other organisations, and to work closely with our existing partners, such as Sussex University, OneWorld.com and Susila Dharma International, and with the network of innovative schools worldwide who have shared their unique visions with us and helped our understanding to grow.

This year we said goodbye to Hardin Tibbs, who has served the Foundation as a member of the Executive Board for more than five years. Hardin's vision and dedication to the GHFP's mission has been greatly appreciated, as has his contribution to many areas of our work.

Sharif István Horthy



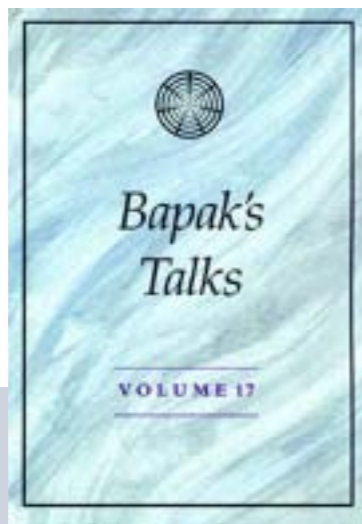
# INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FOR PEACE

The GHFP believes that inter-religious dialogue is the key to mutual understanding, humility and hope and part of our work is to initiate investigations into various aspects of religion. Most recently, our research has been focused on how spirituality and religion may have impact on contemporary life, including an exploration of values and assumptions that underpin science, morality and economics. It is hoped that such research may contribute to identifying a platform for genuine and meaningful dialogue across cultures and religions.

In 2007, the GHFP also provided sponsorship for the publication of literature on spirituality; supported and participated in international inter-religious dialogue events and sponsored other research projects in this area.

## Publication of literature on spirituality

Part of the GHFP's mission is to support the development of human 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 Bapak 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.



In 2007, the Foundation also financed the publication and dissemination within Indonesia of Indonesian language editions of books and other literature written by Bapak Muhammad Subuh.

**'This year, the GHFP continued to offer its support to Religions for Peace towards building a new climate for religious communities to unleash their enormous potential'**



## Religions for Peace

*Religions for Peace* is the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions dedicated to promoting peace. The GHFP has a long established connection with *Religions for Peace* and in particular shares its commitment to respecting religious differences while celebrating a common humanity.

This year, the GHFP continued to offer its support to *Religions for Peace* towards building a new climate for religious communities to unleash their enormous potential for common action to confront issues such as conflict transformation, ending poverty and ensuring a sustainable earth for the future.



## Forgiveness as a Peace Process

The GHFP 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 ending the cycles of violence and creating peace in the world.

This year, the GHFP 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.



Photo provided by: Solidère

Alexandra was the inspiration behind the Garden of Forgiveness in Beirut, Lebanon. She had a vision to create a place for contemplation and forgiveness 'in the centre of the city between 3 cathedrals and 3 mosques and situated within archaeology dating back 3,000 years. The garden of Forgiveness is being built by Solidère, the company responsible for the re-construction of Beirut's City Centre. Unique to the Garden of Forgiveness is an emphasis on the human dimension in reviving communities and re-creating liveable spaces for peaceful co-existence.

The GHFP sees the Garden of Forgiveness as an immense gift to the people of Lebanon and envisages the Garden as a place of great gentleness, forgiveness, and connectedness, which could become both the physical and symbolic common ground for the future of Lebanon and beyond.

The concept of the Garden of Forgiveness has been embraced by the Sacred City project in New York, which plans to create a Garden of Forgiveness at or near Ground Zero.



The site for Garden of Forgiveness, Beirut, Lebanon





## InterWorldView Project

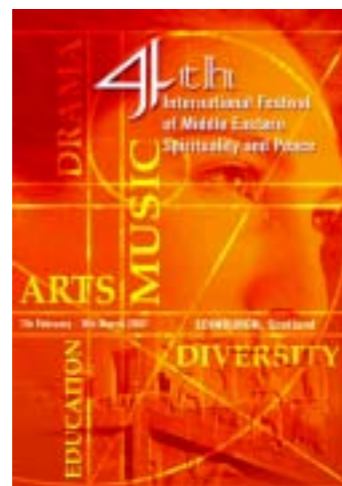
As an exploration in inter-religious and inter-ideological dialogue, the Canada-based InterWorldView Project has pioneered a concept that emphasises implicitly dialogue between individuals who uphold different worldviews. This also includes an internal dialogue within a person who seeks to make sense of different values and worldviews. Thus the concept of InterWorldView goes beyond religious beliefs that have generally been seen to underpin human values, creating a community space for shared values and experiences in order to promote peace and justice.



The project is an innovative web-based educational and consulting service which includes curriculum design, course materials, and teacher training for religious education, inter-religious dialogue, conflict transformation and peace-building.

This year, the GHFP is delighted to have sponsored the InterWorldView Project's new initiative which aims to map out the history of inter-religious dialogue through an interactive timeline.

## Other work in inter-religious dialogue



### Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

This year, the GHFP continued to sponsor a small team of individuals from diverse faith and religious backgrounds to participate in the fourth Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace (MESP). The MESP is based on the belief that in modern times, prophets and mystics continue to offer their voices for innovative and non-violent solutions to conflict. The organisers of the festival seek to create a forum in which we can listen to each other more deeply and learn with a more open mind and heart.

The GHFP's sponsorship funded a workshop which offered an experiential opportunity to nurture individuals toward understanding more about our personal role in community building through spirituality; and a shared spiritual exercise as experienced in Subud by participants from any religious, spiritual, cultural or ethnic community.



### UNGA high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural understanding and cooperation for peace

The GHFP also joined many other organisations in sponsoring a high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural cooperation convened by the United Nations General Assembly. The event took place in October 2007. The dialogue was for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity, in coordination with other similar initiatives in this area.

The event provided an opportunity to UNGA Member States to dialogue with experts in the topical areas. During this event, there was an informal interactive hearing with representatives of civil society, including representatives of non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

In addition, the GHFP sponsored representatives of other NGOs to enable participation in the event, and a member of the GHFP also attended as an observer.

### Harvard Divinity School

In 2007, the GHFP continues to collaborate with other organisations to support inter-religious dialogue. An example of this would be our annual research grant to the Harvard Divinity School for its ongoing scholarly work in this area.



'an experiential opportunity to nurture individuals toward understanding more about our personal role in community building through spirituality; and a shared spiritual exercise'



# EDUCATION FOR HUMAN FULFILMENT



One of the GHFP's goals is to understand how education can enable individuals to live a meaningful human life and achieve their full potential. The Foundation has approached its work in education through research, educational programmes and supporting innovative teaching and learning practices.

## Research into secondary education in mainstream schools

In 2007, as part of the GHFP's research into human-centred education, we launched an inquiry into young people's experiences of secondary education in state schools in England. This project was designed to be a peer-to-peer research where young people acted as researchers and investigated their peers' experiences. This research was led by Scherto Gill and involved 8 young researchers aged 14-21 and about 50 participants aged 14-18.

The interim report saw rich data which captures young people's perceptions on school experience. The research inquiry focused such topics as self-concept, overall experience of secondary education, curriculum, exams, effective teaching methods and recognising the qualities of a good teacher. The research findings provided great insights into how various factors within a learning

environment in secondary education may affect young people's sense of wellbeing and development. It also suggested that peer-to-peer research not only helps develop understanding and identify new issues that are not easily accessible to adult researchers, but also makes it possible to give young people a 'significant voice' in the process of educational innovation.

Much of the young people's perspective supports the GHFP's vision for education that truly has developing learners' diverse human qualities at the core of its endeavour. The research points out the contrast between young people's views and the current British government's emphasis on education as an instrument for the nation's economic growth and increased competitiveness in the global marketplace.

**'One of the GHFP's goals is to understand how education can enable individuals to live a meaningful human life and achieve their full potential'**



## MA in Education Studies with a focus on Person-Centred Education

In 2006, the GHFP, in collaboration with the Sussex School of Education, University of Sussex, launched an innovative MA Education Studies programme with the focus on Person-Centred Education (PCE). PCE is an extension of human-centred education (HCE) in higher learning. It shares the same concerns as HCE regarding 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.

This year, the programme welcomed its second cohort of students and continued to receive interest from teachers and educators in Southeast England and beyond. The programme strives to be person-centred in its values, intellectual intentions and focus of research inquiry. It is intended for educators who have a need to reflect 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 the person-centred learning agenda in British education.

## GHFP convening symposium and thematic session at 9th Oxford Conference

2007 saw a highly successful 9th Oxford International Conference on Education and Development. It attracted nearly four hundred delegates from 50 countries. The GHFP was invited to convene a thematic session entitled 'Learning and human development' and a symposium on 'Exploring a human-centred vision of education'.

These sessions explored the following questions through academic scholarship and research projects, including

- In what way does our understanding of becoming human critically revise our conceptualisations of formal and informal learning?
- How do our concepts of learning link to the re-thinking of our approaches to educational disciplines and to our working models of whole-person development?
- What are the implications of these concepts, in our everyday learning about global citizenship and the

importance of the interdependence amongst humans and the world around us?

- How will these notions contribute to a vision of 21st century education?

The programmes served to propose a shift of concern away from seeing education as an end in itself, towards viewing the promotion of personhood, growth and human development as its ultimate goal.

## Educational project support

### Colegio Amanecer

For a number of years the GHFP has sponsored the educational innovation in Colegio Amanecer Nuestra Señora de Fatimal, 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 within. 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 a continuity for the school's long term implementation of these ideas.





## Educational project support



## Lewes New School

Lewes New School is a parent-initiated and community based small school. The basis of the school's 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](http://www.lewesnewschool.co.uk))

Since its inception, the school has been supported by many individuals and organisations including the GHFP. Amongst the initiatives that the GHFP supported are the development of its respectful communication model, TET (Teacher Effectiveness Training) and PET (Parent Effectiveness Training). The communication 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.

The GHFP also sponsored Lewes New School's early years' educational innovation. With the support from educationalists and consultants, the school is experimenting in ways that enable young children to drive their own learning. This initiative reflects the value of 'less is more' in teachers' instruction in early years' classrooms. Instead of transmitting knowledge and information, teachers will be facilitators, listeners, observers, guides, and learners as they provide support to young children's learning.

This early years' innovation project is inspired by both the Reggio Emilia and Montessori approaches.

Photo provided by: Lewes New School



# LIVELIHOOD FOR HUMAN FLOURISHING

The GHFP is interested in a positive view of the notion of development, approaching it from the direction of human flourishing, rather than the problem of poverty. Livelihood is our preferred term which stresses dignity and well-being and how individuals' talents can be nurtured in order to contribute to overall human flourishing.



## OneWorld, OneClimate

This year, the GHFP is proud to have helped make the OneClimate portal a reality, and in time to provide an alternative and clearer, more ethical way to participate in the Bali Summit for Climate Change.



OneClimate is an initiative of OneWorld UK, which is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is 'to leverage media innovatively for a fair and sustainable world'. Clearly, the project believes that humans cannot have a fair and sustainable world without tackling climate change. OneClimate creates innovative spaces and useful tools to enable individuals to communicate their experiences, insights, questions and answers about climate change.



Using the social network Second Life, OneClimate is essentially a series of platforms upon which people from different communities can interact and explore shared solutions to the current challenges posed by climate change.

**OneClimate creates innovative spaces and useful tools to enable individuals to communicate their experiences, insights, questions and answers about climate change.**

## Virtual Bali

In November 2007, whilst delegates and activists from 180 countries flew to Bali to participate in the UN climate change conference, many others also arrived at the event in the comfort of their own homes. How could this be possible? With the support of the GHFP, the OneClimate portal has set up a *Virtual Bali* on Second Life, for delegates to come together and communicate with representatives from the different countries and organisations physically attending the event. The idea of *Virtual Bali* was originally conceived by OneWorld during the Nairobi summit. A trial event proved so successful that it decided to develop the concept on a much larger scale in time for Bali. OneWorld was the first NGO to use Second Life for dealing with serious global justice issues, as well as creating the first space devoted solely to tackling climate change.



According to Anuradha Vittachi, co-founder of OneWorld and instigator of its climate initiative:

**'OneClimate.net is a mass collaboration space dedicated to global citizens gathering and distributing solutions to climate change. It will come into its own during the UN Climate Summit, when we will open a virtual window on events in Bali for anyone in the world who can access Second Life. But unlike its Real Life equivalent – and appropriately for a climate change conference – Virtual Bali will enable its participants to avoid flight-generated carbon emissions.'**

Many well-known speakers appeared at *Virtual Bali*, including USA Congressman Markey who is the Chair of the US House Select Committee on Global Warming. He had used *Virtual Bali* to 'travel' to Bali to address the UN delegates. Speakers from large international NGOs, such as Oxfam, held conversations with conference goers about the progress being made also using *Virtual Bali*. Many have asked – could this be the future for negotiations in the next Climate Summit?

Survey and case studies on governance and community development

The GHFP continues to define the concept of development in order for it to reflect a more complete understanding of human life, and which may help identify new paths of development more fitting for human beings. This year, we commissioned a survey and case studies on the topic of governance and community development.

The research was envisaged to encompass two parts:

- 1 a literature review of global trends on governance issues that have a direct impact on the sustainable development of communities.
- 2 the activities and projects of individuals and organisations that are actively engaged in governance issues focused directly or indirectly on community development.

The research focuses on examining the roles, responsibilities, relationships and interactions among key stakeholders – government, business, citizens and civic organisations (non-governmental) – that can contribute to fostering good governance and development.

One of the important aspects will be to examine the role of the private sector in the governance equation: in particular, its role in proactively supporting and promoting social development.

It is hoped that the research findings will form the basis for a follow-up international workshop for social entrepreneurs and members of development organisations for in-depth dialogue and discussion on governance and community development.



# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DEC 2007

	€ (Euros)
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>97,166.61</b>
<b>DONATION RECEIVED</b>	<b>700,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>807.21</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>83,933.02</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS</b>	<b>180,963.51</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH</b>	<b>283,764.29</b>
<b>INVESTMENT IN NEW PREMISES</b>	<b>42,603.33</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>206,709.67</b>

# 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

### Executive Secretary

Dr Scherto Gill

### Contact

#### 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](http://www.ghfp.org)





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*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**

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Prof. Garrett Thomson