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Annual Report 2008

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Globethics.net



Annual Report | **2008**

Globethics.net

The severe current financial crisis is also an economic crisis, a systemic crisis and a crisis of values. Values such as responsible use of freedom, equality in the distribution of wealth and risks, sustainability as well as virtues such as modesty, honesty and transparency are becoming more and more important. Globethics.net is a growing network of persons and institutions who want to contribute to common global values while respecting the diversity of contextual values as a gift for humanity.

2008 was a year of major changes and developments for Globethics.net: its global digital library was launched, offering access to a broad variety of full text documents as a service especially for the global South.

At the end of the year the number of registered participants was six times higher than the year before. The new Board of Foundation was elected. It remains international, representing five continents and has developed into an interreligious and multi-stakeholder Board counting nine distinguished personalities. The number of staff at the international secretariat in Geneva increased in order to fulfill the goals. The founder and former president Christoph Stückelberger took up his function as full time Executive Director and Walter Fust, the former Director General of the Swiss Development Cooperation, was elected president of the Board of Foundation.

For 2009, we hope that many new persons and partner networks will join Globethics.net and use this global network for ethics as a service for access to knowledge, orientation and empowerment. In order to offer these services for a humane development, we need more funding partners. With increased financial support Globethics.net can contribute to transform the current crisis into an opportunity of reorientation for a value-based global community.





Walter Fust
President of the Board



Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger
Executive Director and Founder

Highlights from Globethics.net participants

"I am assisting a team which is focusing on the rebuilding of Zimbabwe. The Globethics.net library resource is exceptionally useful for them. In the new Zimbabwe, ethics will become a primary focus."

Glyn Hunter, Consultant, South Africa/Zimbabwe

"I hope you will find more Iranians in the Globethics.net network in the near future."

Prof. Dr. Kiarash Aramesh, Teheran University of Medical Sciences, Iran

"We must continue our dialogue and engagement. It is up to us to make sure it will bear a rich harvest."

Prof. Dr. Kamran Mofid, Founder, Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative, UK

"I am now working on the theme of communalism and violence. I was astonished to get access to full text articles from the Globethics.net library. It is unbelievable and very helpful!"

Prof. Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar, United Theological College, Bangalore/India

"Thank you very much for the Globethics.net library! I am working mostly in the field of ethics of research for health in developing countries, focused on neglected diseases of neglected populations. I collaborate with our Bioethics National Commission, State of Yucatan. Could I invite our Mexican bioethicists to become involved?"

Fernando Andrade Narvaez, Mexico



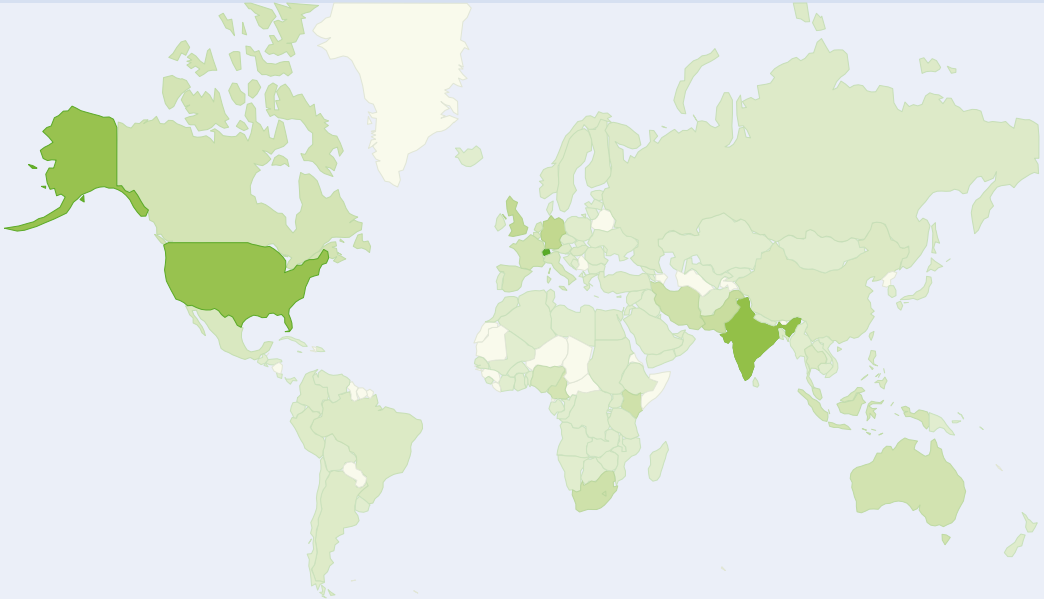
Network – a growing ethics community

The geographical and professional background of our registered participants is very broad. By the end of 2008 people from 109 countries had registered to Globethics.net. As our primary aim is to improve access to ethics resources in the South we have given a special focus to people and universities from Africa, Latin America and Asia in our marketing efforts. The result is that we have many new registrations from English speaking Africa, from Asia and from Latin America. The new website navigation is now available in English, French, German and Spanish. Many Globethics.net participants are from academic professions related to applied ethics, but also activists, religious leaders, NGO representatives, individuals from private companies and the public sector have joined. By 31 December 2008 Globethics.net reached 3'100 registered participants. This is an increase of 650% compared to the number of registered participants a year ago.

The number of registered organizations reached 120 as of 31 December 2008. Being registered on our website gives NGO's, organizations, libraries, universities more outreach. Since the launch of the library it has attracted institutions working in ethics from all over the world. Ethics centers, faith based organizations, libraries and a number of grass roots organizations registered as an organization.

In 2008, Globethics.net signed partnership agreements with various organizations (see http://www.globethics.net/web/guest/about/partners). Among the networking partners are ISBEE (International Society of Business, Economics, and Ethics), EBEN (European Business Ethics Network), BEN Africa (Business Ethics Network Africa) and GKP (Global Knowledge Partnership). Project partners are, among others, ECLOF International and FPH (Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme). The two main funding partners remain the Linsi Foundation and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC.





People from 159 countries visited Globethics.net Website (from Nov 1st, 2008 to March 1st, 2009)

The darker the green, the more visits from a country

Network – sharing values through conferences and workgroups

In our time of global exchanges, where individuals of different knowledge systems need to communicate effectively in order to avoid misunderstanding and conflict, we need to reflect on how to best share values with others. To address this issue, Globethics.net, along with the Programme of Ethics in Eastern Africa, organised its third international conference around the theme 'Sharing Values across Cultures and Religions'. Care and compassion, prime values in many cultures and religions, served as a support theme to the reflection.

About sixty scholars, activists, religious leaders, artists and interfaith workers from five continents, belonging to the Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Humanist traditions, prepared the conference through online workgroups which worked over five months via the workgroup tools offered on the Globethics.net website. The groups addressed five subthemes:

1. Defining Global Ethics
2. Care and compassion: Ensuring a Successful Interreligious Dialogue on Ethics
3. Care and compassion: Integrating Different Means and Methods of Sharing Values in a Human-to-Human Approach
4. Care and compassion: Balancing Power Relations, Inducing a Real Transformation
5. Care and compassion: Sharing Values in the Kenyan & East African Contexts

The physical conference took place on 25-29 January 2009 near Nairobi/Kenya. The undergirding methodological approach was to welcome participants as individuals not only qualified by their professional or academic profile, but also by their unique life experience, ways of interacting with others, and competency in sharing and negotiating opinions and ideas to reach a common result.

The outcome of the conference includes a draft methodology for interreligious dialogue on ethics, referred to as "Sharing Values across Cultures and Religions. Towards Globethics.net Principles."

"Every society needs to be bound together by common values, so that its members know what to expect of each other, and have some shared principles by which to manage their differences without resorting to violence. Universal values are more acutely needed, in this age of globalization, than ever before."

Kofi Annan



Planting trees in Kenya by Globethics.net participants from five continents

Access – online Library launched



Globethics.net launched its Global Digital Library on Ethics on 9 October 2008. This library provides users free access to full text versions of more than 1,6 million documents. A wide variety of journals, encyclopedias, books, magazines, newspapers, dissertations and other documents in the field of applied ethics can be accessed in the library.

There is no cost involved in using the library. Everybody can access it, but licensed commercial articles can only be read and downloaded by registered participants. Individuals need to register (free of charge) on the Globethics.net website (www.globethics.net) to get a password.



The purpose of the library is to ensure that persons — especially in developing and transition countries — have access to good quality and up to date knowledge resources. More equal access to knowledge resources in the field of applied ethics will enable persons and institutions from these countries to become more visible and audible in the global conversation on ethics. It includes various fields of ethics such as economic ethics, political ethics, bioethics, medical ethics, environmental ethics, family ethics, sexual ethics, inter-religious ethics and media ethics.

A unique feature of the library is that it offers participants the opportunity to submit their own documents on applied ethics (like articles, journals, books, dissertations, newsletters) to the Globethics.net Library. This ensures that their publications get more global exposure. Globethics.net guarantees a quality control. Documents in a wide variety of languages (including English, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish, Japanese and German) are available in and can be submitted to the library.

In its effort to give more exposure to ethical voices from the global South, Globethics.net has formed a partnership to provide an electronic journal publishing service to ethics journals that are currently only published in paper format. This will enable journals that sign up to this project, to publish in open access electronic format and thus make these journals available electronically to a global audience through the Globethics.net Library.

The Globethics.net Library has proved to be useful to persons who otherwise would have been deprived from access to knowledge resources on applied ethics. Visitors from all continents of the world and from 159 countries have already visited the library.

Research – a global perspective of Business Ethics

Globethics.net initiates and coordinates a number of research projects in three fields: Business Ethics, Interreligious Ethics and Responsible Leadership. These projects serve to mobilize researchers from all parts of the world to become involved in global ethical issues. It also generates and brings together ethical perspectives from all continents of the world. The outcomes of these research projects are published in the Globethics.net book series and are accessible in full text electronic format in the Globethics.net Library.

Business Ethics

Prof. Deon Rossouw, (Programme Executive Business Ethics) launched a worldwide survey of the field of Business Ethics. For the purpose of this survey eight world regions were identified, namely, (1) Latin America, (2) North America, (3) Sub-Saharan Africa, (4) Europe, (5) Middle East & North Africa, (6) Central Asia, (7) South & East Asia and (8) Oceania. A research team has been established for each of these regions. These teams identify individuals and institutions (like universities, associations, centers, research institutes, corporations and NGO's) that are actively involved in the field of Business Ethics. They are then surveyed with regard to training, teaching and research in Business Ethics. By collating and comparing the information collected from around the world a global profile of the field of Business Ethics will be generated. The project will run over a two year period till 2010. It will produce outcomes such as A Global Report on Business Ethics as field of teaching, training and research; A Global Bibliography of Business Ethics publications, and a Global Directory of individuals and institutions with expertise in Business Ethics.

Interreligious Ethics

Interreligious ethics looks at the contribution of religions to common and differentiated values as a contribution to peace. The main activities have been related to the international conference, described on page 6 of this report.

Responsible Leadership

Globethics.net started to work on a collection of case studies on professional ethics for a "casothèque", a project supported by the "Fondation pour le progrès de l'homme"

in Paris. Globethics.net also agreed to work on a handbook on responsible leadership for leaders in the microcredit sector in partnership with the ecumenical microcredit organization ECLOF International. For the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva, Globethics.net developed Ethical Guidelines for Climate Justice with a group of ethics experts.

Publications

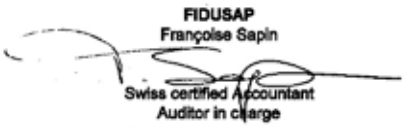
The book "Overcoming Fundamentalism" with contributions from five continents was published as Globethics.net Series No. 2. The Globethics.net publications are made available online for free and are available for reprinting on all continents.



Accounts 2008 – financial challenges

Auditors Statement

"In our opinion, the accounting records and financial statements comply with Swiss law, Globethics.net statutes and its accounting principles as described in note 3 of the Notes to the Financial Statements."
Geneva, March 20, 2009



Balance	
Assets	
Petty Cash	367
Cash in Bank	108,968
Short-term Investments	205,408
Long-Term Investments	1,132,962
Due from WCC	3,218
Total Assets	1,450,922
Liabilities and Fund Balances	
Liabilities:	
Accrued Expenses	8,810
Total Liabilities	**8,810**
Fund Balances:	
Designated Funds	
Digital Library	286,742
Less: Used in 2008	286,742
Fund Balance, end	-
Restricted Fund (2008-2016)	
Beginning balance, February 6, 2008	1,500,000
Add: Investment Income earned in 2008	18,369
Less: Used for operations in 2008	180,000
Balance, December 31, 2008	1,338,369
Fund for general operations:	
Beginning balance, January 1	88,739
Add: Surplus during the year	15,004
Fund Balance end, December 31	103,743
Total Fund Balances, end	**1,442,112**
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	1,450,922

Income in CHF	
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	238,575
Foundations (Linsi)	280,000
Transfer from GE library Fund	286,742
Diverse donors, Contributions for Projects	44,605
Club 100	26,000
Development Agencies and project services	97,466
Publications	1,200
Membership fees Association	150
Bank interests income	4,185
Other Income	2,434
Reimbursement for Staff Insurance	15,647
Total Income	997,003

We thank all donors for their suppport, especially the Linsi Foundation, the Swiss Development Cooperation and the Fondation pour le progrès de l'homme.

Globethics.net as a not-for-profit foundation needs **donations** for reaching its goal and fulfilling its services for developing countries.

Bank account: UBS, Geneva, N° 0240-703038.01L
IBAN CH3100240240703038O1L

Post account: PC 87-713100-7 Globethics.net, 8057 Zürich

Expenses in CHF	
Networking	
Globethics.net Library	
Development (networking mandate)	34,432
Development (IT partner/Digital Library)	394,399
Subscriptions / licenses e-journals	22,084
Website / IT	4,975
Research	
Conferences / workshops	55,975
Publications	1,180
Institution/staff	
Salaries (without social services)	319,387
Social Services	47,688
Insurance - Loss of salary and benefits	5,252
Board meetings (all online)	224
Office infrastructure	66,472
Institutional development & fundraising	11,386
Travel staff	5,725
Audit	9,665
Bookkeeping/Accounting	1,000
Bank charges	198
Miscellaneous	1,960
Total Expenses	982,000
Excess of income over expenses	15,004

Institution – from association to foundation

From March 2005 to the end of 2008, Globethics.net existed as an association under Swiss law. In October 2008 Globethics.net changed its legal status from an association to a foundation under Swiss law and is now registered in the Commercial Registry of Geneva (no. 13820/2008). This means that Globethics.net now has a new structure with the following governing bodies: Board of Foundation, the Director and the Auditor. On 19 September 2008 the General Assembly of the Association elected a new Board of Foundation which took up its functions on 1 January 2009. The Board of the Association as well as the General Assembly ended their terms on 31 December 2008.

The former Board of Association
(2005 – 31 Dec. 2008)

Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger
Founding president 2005-30 June 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Walter Fust
President from 1 July 2008

Prof. Dr. Heidi Hadsell, *Hartford, USA*

Prof. Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar, *Bangalore, India*

Prof. Dr. Muteho Kasongo, *Goma, Democratic Republik of Congo*

Dr. Riad Jarjour, *Beirut, Lebanon*

Prof. Dr. Paulo Carneiro de Andrade, *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Mr. Pavel Shashkin, *Moscow, Russia*

Staff of the International Secretariat in Geneva

Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger, *100%, Executive Director, stueckelberger@globethics.net*

Ariane Hentsch, *50% Program Executive Interreligious Ethics, hentsch@globethics.net*

Prof. Dr. Deon Rossouw, *100%, Program Executive Business Ethics, rossouw@globethics.net*

Natalie Emch, *100%, Assistant to Executive Director, emch@globethics.net*

Atanu Garai, *100%, Online Networking Specialist, office in New Delhi, India (until 31 Dec 2008)*

Amélie Vallotton, *80%, Online Librarian (as of 1 January 2009), vallotton@globethics.net*



The new Board of Foundation
(from 1 January 2009)

Mr. Walter Fust – President
Executive Director of the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Heidi Hadsell, *Hartford, USA President Hartford Seminary*

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Machasin, *Jakarta, Indonesia. Director of Islamic Higher Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs Indonesia*

Prof. Dr. Parichart Suwanbubbha, *Bangkok, Thailand. Assistant Professor Mahidol University Research Center on Peacebuilding*

Mr. S.D. Shibulal, *Bangalore, India. Chief Operating Officer, Co-founder and Member of Board Infosys Technologies Ltd.*

Dr. Samuel Kobia, *Kenya. General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland*

Dr. Clotilde Fonseca, *Costa Rica. Executive Director of the Omar Dengo Foundation*

Dr. Juan Somavia, *Chile. Director General of the International Labour Organisation ILO, Geneva, Switzerland*

Dr. Jill Cousins, *Netherlands. Director of the European Digital Library/Europeana*

Globethics.net

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Dialogue, reflection and action for responsible leadership

Globethics.net Vision and Mission (2009)
Globethics.net: The leading global platform for exchange of and research on ethics and values. We empower people from all regions of the world, especially in developing and transition countries, for ethical dialogue, reflection and action by:

Providing **access** to knowledge resources on ethics through our Global Digital Library on Ethics

Facilitating **networking** on ethics in our Globethics.net online community of persons and organizations

Stimulating global collaborative **research** on selected fields such as business ethics, interreligious ethics and responsible leadership.