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Annual Report 2005

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Annual Report 2005

Hopeful Start for Global Networking in Ethics

End of term date: December 31, 2005

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1) Key Figures / Executive Summary

“Join ethical reflection-action”. Under this motto, Globethics.net acts as a global network of institutions and individuals involved in applied ethics with three main goals: capacity building, networking, and research partnerships with regard to publications, events and web-based dialogue. While it was founded officially in August 2004, when it held its first international conference at Bossey, Switzerland, Globethics.net started working with full capacity only in summer 2005. After its first year of existence, the decisive steps and key figures are presented as follows:

- Globethics.net has enlarged its network from 25 participating institutions at the beginning of 2005 to 47 institutions. The increase in the number of participating individuals was even higher, with a number climbing from 50 to almost 120. (See the details in paragraph 4 below.)

- Globethics.net was formally established as an association under Swiss law in March 2005. The statutes of the association, which define the legal structure as well as the governing bodies are available on the website.
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) decided in July 2005 to support Globethics.net as the main donor partner. The project is under the auspices of the SDC Thematic Service Knowledge and Research, as Globethics.net was recognised as an initiative aiming primarily at linking *research activities* between the South and the North, as well as providing *capacity building* for researchers in partner institutions. The support from SDC is of particular importance for the initiative, as it is not related to particular sub-projects, but represents funding for the core activities. In addition, very substantial support for core activities was given by the Linsi Foundation in Switzerland and a start up contribution came from the Association of World Council of Churches Related Development Organisations in Europe, APRODEV.
- Globethics.net held its annual Board meeting from March 4 to 5 in Zurich, Switzerland. On this occasion, the initiative was introduced to some ethicists working at nearby universities or in ethics related research and teaching units. (For further information, please see paragraph 2 below.)
- As of May 1st and August 1st, staff for the Globethics.net secretariat was appointed. Ms. Evelyn V. Appiah, a Swiss citizen originating from Ghana, acts as the executive assistant. Mr. Jean-Daniel Strub, a Swiss citizen specialising in ethics, acts as the executive coordinator. (For details, please see paragraph 4 below.)
- In July 2005, the first volume in the Globethics.net series was published. The publication, entitled "Responsible Leadership – global perspectives", served as a starting point for the contributions to the annual conference at Bangkok and was the basis for the discussions on the topic during this symposium. According to the goals of Globethics.net, the book was published at Nairobi, Kenya (Acton Press), and will be published in a re-edited version for the northern market in Geneva (WCC Press) in spring 2006. (For further details, please see paragraph 6 below.)
- From September 22 to 26, 2005, Globethics.net held its annual international conference. The event took place at Bangkok, Thailand, with the aim to broaden the network in the Asian context. Dealing with the topic of "Responsible Leadership – global and contextual ethical challenges", the conference brought together more than 35 ethicists and some civil society practitioners, representing five continents. Selected contributions to this conference will be published in a second volume in the Globethics.net series, to be released in June 2006. (Further information on the conference is provided in paragraph 3 below.)

- After the Bangkok conference, the Globethics.net internet platform incurred major modifications, allowing for more productive work of the online working groups and improving the possibilities of exchange on the site. The news section, an important part of the services the website can provide, is now the first element visible. Furthermore, a new user category, *Participating Individuals*, was introduced to meet the needs of interested individual researchers and participants who do not have the opportunity to sign up with their institutions. (See paragraph 5 below for further information on the website modifications.)
- Globethics.net currently has eight working groups running, interested in global online research dialogue and dealing each with an ethical topic of global relevance. (See paragraph 5 below for further information on the working groups.)
- The first Globethics.net newsletters have been published. This instrument of information represents an important element of the Globethics.net network activities. They shall not only serve as a means of communication for news of Globethics.net, but they shall also be at the disposal of participating institutions to communicate news and information to other members of the network. (See paragraph 5 below for more detailed information on the newsletter.)
- In September 2005, Globethics.net started the preparation for a regional workshop on ethical aspects of conflict resolution in an inter-religious setting, to be held at Beirut, Lebanon, on March 10, 2006, before the annual board meeting. The workshop is co-organised with Globethics.net's local partner, the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue. (See paragraph 8 below for more in-depth information on the workshop and its purposes.)
- Immediately after the Bangkok conference, where the theme and the place for the third international conference of 2006 were decided, Globethics.net started preparing for this event. The conference, which will be held in the Netherlands from August 27 to 31, 2006, will deal with the topic of "Fundamentalism and Ethics", a topic investigated by one of the most active Globethics.net working groups. (See paragraph 8 below for further information on the 2006 annual conference.)

2) **Board and Association**

2.1 Association

On March 16, 2005, the Globethics.net association was formally established. It is constituted as an association under Swiss law, having as one of its main responsibilities to appoint the international board, which in turn holds responsibility for the strategic and planning issues

within Globethics.net. The association is composed of three members, who are experienced scholars in ethics and inter-religious matters. During the report period, Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger acted as the chairperson of the association. At its 2005 assembly, the members of the association decided to participate in the spring meeting of the Globethics.net board, which will take place from March 10-12 in Beirut, Lebanon. As of spring 2007, Prof. Dr. Christine Lienemann (Basel), will become the chairperson of the association.

2.2 International Board and Operational Committee

The members of the Steering Committee (SC) were elected during the founding workshop of Globethics.net in 2004. The SC was transformed and elected as the Globethics.net International Board at the first assembly of the association in March 2005. Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger was elected as the chairperson (president) of the board and the association (see a list of the board members in appendix 1).

The board held two meetings throughout 2005. The first meeting was held on March 4 and 5 in Zurich, Switzerland. The location was chosen with the purpose of allowing the board members to get a clear picture of the context in which Globethics.net evolves. In addition to the regular



The Globethics.net Board at its yearly meeting

decisions on strategic and long term planning issues, the board in particular designed the structure of the Globethics.net international secretariat, set up the profile of the two staff positions and decided on the topic, the location and the venue of the 2005 annual conference. In particular, the Zurich board meeting provided an opportunity for encounters with ethicists working in Swiss universities and research departments, allowing for exchange between board members and local researchers.

The second meeting of the international board was held immediately after the conference in Bangkok, in which all board members, with two exceptions, participated. In this meeting, the board proceeded, among others, to a rigorous evaluation of the conference and draw conclusions for further comparable events. Furthermore, it evaluated the first half year of 2005 and set up programme priorities for the remaining 2005 and 2006. In addition, the board decided about the venue and the theme of the Globethics.net 2006 conference, determined fundraising strategies and decided on a policy for IT-support for Globethics.net participants.

In order to facilitate the day-to-day decisions and work, the international secretariat formed, together with the chairperson, the Globethics.net Operational Committee (GE OC) which meets on a regular basis and decides on short-term issues in the operational realm, as well

as on minor strategic questions and on the website administration. The minutes of these OC-meetings are available for all board members upon request at the Globethics.net secretariat.

3) Annual International Conference

Apart from the web-based activities, the international conference represents so far the most important instrument of Globethics.net. The second international conference (after the founding workshop of August 2004) was held from September 22 to 26, 2005, at Bangkok, Thailand. The event brought together 35 ethicists and scholars from related fields, as well as some civil society practitioners, which explored global and contextual aspects of the general theme "Responsible Leadership". During the conference, particular aspects of this topic were discussed in five different sections, focusing respectively on the issues of *Political Leadership*, *Business Leadership*, *Religious Leadership*, *Family Leadership*, and *Media/Educational Leadership*. Along the lines of 6 invited keynote addresses and 20 papers submitted by the participants, elements of a global set of ethical principles for responsible behaviour in leading positions were debated in the different sessions.

Participants to the Globethics.net conference were invited by the secretariat and the chairperson during May 2005. All the existing Globethics.net participating institutions (i.e. around 35) as well as 60 further institutions or individuals were originally contacted, following almost a 50%-50% ratio between male and female participants. The response was surprisingly good, proving the high interest in Globethics.net's activities: 45 individuals or representatives from various institutions answered positively to the invitations and expressed their firm intention to attend the meeting. However, from July until the last days before the conference, the number of confirmed participants dropped to 35, due to various difficulties. The male/female ratio decreased even to the unsatisfactory figure of only six female participants.

All participants in the conference, with a few exceptions, contributed actively by submitting either a keynote address or a workshop paper on one of the six sectors. The conference took as a starting point the 16 essays on Responsible Leadership published in the first volume in the Globethics.net series (see paragraph 6 below for further information on the book). This volume therefore was sent to all participants. Six keynote addresses were prepared by six speakers from five different continents. Two keynote speakers were existing members of Globethics.net, four speakers were asked specifically to contribute to this conference and have joined the network since then. The speakers were: Dr. Christopher Lind (Toronto, Canada), Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Asante (Legon, Ghana), Prof. Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar (Bangalore, India), Prof. Dr. Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade (Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil), Nikolaos Dimitriadis (Thessaloniki, Greece), and Matthias Zeeb (Hannover, Germany).

While the six keynote addresses focussed on dissimilar issues, they all outlined ethical criteria for Responsible Leadership in their realm, criteria that were sometimes questioned, sometimes disputed, and sometimes completed in the discussions that followed each presentation.

It was the task of the workshops, held in four sessions during the conference, to further specify ethical criteria for Responsible Leadership through the discussion, in the workshop groups, of the papers submitted by the individual participants and through further examination of the keynote addresses. Although in two workshop groups the discussions suffered from the fact that some participants were asked to work on assigned issues rather than on issues of their particular sphere of specialisation, most groups, particularly those on Religious Leadership, Business Leadership, and Political Leadership, shared vivid debates both on papers and on the overall criteria for Responsible Leadership. Each workshop group was asked to present a sketch of such criteria that it explored during its discussions. The criteria put together by the workshop groups served as a starting point for a common document discussed as the outcome of the conference.



Participants from 22 countries, representing 5 continents, at the Globethics.net International conference 2005

Answering one of the concrete objectives of the network, the Bangkok conference also focussed particularly on the elaboration of a *common methodology* for worldwide ethical exchange. The process of putting together common principles for

Responsible Leadership proved to be interesting in this regard, as it showed a consensus on such principles that reached farther than expected. On the other hand, however, the discussions also showed that one important approach to follow for a network interested in global ethical exchange is to identify and thoroughly present the different *perspectives* on the questions debated rather than to search for a *qualified consensus* or even a distinction between the *universally accepted right and wrong* (in moral terms). This approach guides also the publications in the Globethics.net series, where authors from various backgrounds shall precisely deal with a given topic by outlining their particular cultural, regional or religiously inspired perspectives on the issue debated. Methodology for worldwide ethical debate and research will continue to constitute one of the main fields of interest within Globethics.net, where several joint research projects on this precise topic shall start in 2006.

The evaluation of the conference by participants and the Globethics.net board – concerning both its organisation and the content – was fairly positive. Several issues were raised that need further consideration and improvement, such as the ratio of men/female representation or the fact that contributors should be allowed to work more specifically on their issues of interest. The main concern, however, was the missed opportunity to link the conference theme sufficiently to the local context, e.g. by meeting with local leaders, by discussing leadership issues with Thai executives or by conducting field visits to places where leadership is particularly challenged. As a consequence, “context” related activities, linked to specific aspects of the conference topic, will be scheduled as an important programme element of the forthcoming Globethics.net conferences. Furthermore, it was agreed to issue a Call for Papers for the 2006 conference, in order to attract new participants, among whom young researchers shall be particularly encouraged to submit contributions.

An extensive report on the Bangkok conference, including the document containing the common principles for Responsible Leadership, can be found on the Globethics.net website: http://www.globethics.net/fs-search/file?file_id=16605.

4) Network

4.1 Participants

Throughout 2005, the Globethics.net worldwide network continuously grew and reached the number of participants intended as indicated in the logframe for this year. By the end of 2005, 45 institutions and almost 120 individual participants had joined the network. Due to the adaptation of the user categories (see paragraph 5 below), some individuals who joined as “Participating Individuals” could be motivated to actively involve, which would have been impossible if the new status would not have been introduced.

By December 31, 2005, the picture of geographical representation of participating institutions is as follows:

Africa	Asia	Eastern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Middle East	Latin America	Intern. Organisations
- DR Congo (2) - South Africa (1) - Cameroon (1) - Kenya (2)	- India (1) - China (2) - Korea (1) - Indonesia (2) - Malaysia (1)	- Romania (1) - Russia (2)	- Switzerland (7) - Belgium (2) - Germany (2) - Netherlands (1) - UK (2) - Sweden (1) - Greece (1)	- USA (2)	- Lebanon (2)	- Argentina (1) - Chile (1) - Costa Rica (1) - Brazil (3)	- International Organisations and NGO's (Switzerland based) (3)
6	7	3	16	2	2	6	3
						TOTAL	45

As these figures indicate, the goal of having a majority of participants from the South and from transition countries is reached (the corresponding countries are printed in italics, their number is 24). However, it also becomes visible that one of the major concerns for 2006 will be to enlarge the network in particular in transition countries, such as in Eastern Europe, where ethical issues are at stake in a particular way. Priority is given to identify appropriate means of contacting institutions and ethicists from these areas.

It remains one of Globethics.net's important goals to enlarge the network towards institutions acting on a non-faith based background (i.e. in particular departments of philosophical ethics in various universities and secular international organisations), as well as towards institutions and individual ethicists stemming from a non-Christian, in particular a Muslim background. However, activities for enlarging the network could not yet be given sufficient priority in 2005, as the year was very much characterised by the process of setting up the structures and the functioning of the Geneva-based international secretariat. Furthermore, information materials such as brochures, background documents and fact-sheets first needed to be prepared. Broadening the network will therefore be one of the secretariat's main focuses in the first half of 2006. Particular attention will be paid to the enlargement towards Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist institutions, as well as towards philosophical ethics and research departments specialising in global ethics.

The target figure indicating the number of non-Christian participants (comprising non-faith based institutions) to be part of the network, as set up with our donors, is of 20%. At the end of 2005, this figure was reached: The actual ratio is of 32 institutions with a Christian background and 13 with a non-Christian background (i.e. 28.8%).

4.2 Infrastructure and International Secretariat

One particularly important move of the year 2005 was the creation of the international secretariat as well as the employment of staff. As of May 1st, 2005, the position of the executive assistant is occupied by Evelyn Appiah, who joined Globethics.net as a programme assistant at the very beginning of its existence. Prior to this assignment, she coordinated Oikosnet (a global network of laity centres) and worked for many years with the World Council of Churches. She brings valuable knowledge and skills in international networking, logistics for global conferences, and training. The position of the executive coordinator is occupied since August 1st, 2005, by Jean-Daniel Strub, who started working with Globethics.net after a 3 years assignment as a research assistant at the Research Centre for Ethics at the University of Zurich. He is currently completing a Ph.D. thesis in peace ethics and holds responsibility within Globethics.net for the scientific and content related issues. Located at the Ecumenical Centre in the heart of Geneva's international organisations' district, the Globethics.net secretariat is in charge of all operational concerns

of the network and acts as a primary contact for all participants. Among its main tasks are the maintenance and the administration of the Globethics.net internet platform as well as the animation of the web-based activities, the organisation of the international conference and the semi-annual board meetings, as well as the editing of publications and e-books. The members of the secretariat also provide support to all users of the website.

The total employment rate of the secretariat staff is of 130% (executive assistant: 70%; executive coordinator: 60%). Since December 2004, Globethics.net's chairperson, Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger, is the chairperson of the Institute for Theology and Ethics of the Swiss Federation of Protestant Churches. He remains, however, professor of ethics at the University of Basel.

5) **Web-based Activities**

One of the core aims of Globethics.net is to encourage and to strengthen global exchange on ethical issues through web-based research and discussion activities. The intention is to provide means and space for sharing ethical concerns in particular for researchers and ethicists evolving in southern and transition countries and to allow them to better participate in the worldwide ethical debates without having to afford high travel costs. From the beginning, the Globethics.net internet platform was specifically designed to meet this purpose. However, as an outcome of the Bangkok conference, some major modifications were introduced to the website, delaying for two months the launch of the actual work of online working groups (see section 5.3 of this paragraph for the working groups). The modifications described below were initiated immediately after the Bangkok conference and took effect in December 2005.



Electronic networking training session at the International Conference

5.1 Modifications

As a first measure, a particular space for the activities of the working groups was introduced on the Globethics.net website (see www.globethics.net/globethics/manage-memberships). The working group section provides, for each thematic research group, space for the upload of documents, for the discussion of issues in a forum, and for further exchange related specifically to the issue they are dealing with. According to the wish of the working groups, and depending on whether sensitive work-in-progress documents are uploaded, access to these particular spaces can be either entirely or partially open. In the latter case, new participants committed to the research interests of the group will have to request access from the working group administrator. This represents a measure to protect sensitive research work, i.e. unpublished texts or concepts, and to enhance the quality and depth of the online

dialogue. For many participants, the possibility of having work-in-progress materials protected proved to be an important element for engaging in active participation.

The second major modification refers to the introduction, on the website, of a new user status. Reactions from different interested users showed that for many, in particular for university teachers, it was difficult to sign up as an institution, as they could not involve the organisation to which they belong without having to undergo a time-consuming, if not impossible, process. For them, therefore, no user status was provided so far, making their participation in the network impossible. Hence the board decided to move away from its institution centred policy and to introduce the status of "Participating Individuals", who have very much the same privileges as Participating Institutions. They will have their own personal page, specifying their profile, can participate actively on all levels of the internet platform and are entitled to contribute to the working groups. In the same way as Participating Institutions, they have to sign up by submitting an application through the website, which is answered by the chairperson and which serves as a filter, guaranteeing that access to Globethics.net remains restricted to users with a persuasive background in ethics. As this user status was introduced in December only, its impact on the structure of Globethics.net participants could not be measured for 2005. During the first weeks of 2006, however, almost 15 individuals, half of them working with university departments, signed up with this new status.

5.2 Newsletter

The Globethics.net newsletter was first released in December 2005. During a starting phase, the newsletter shall be sent every 6 weeks by the executive coordinator to all registered participants. Depending on the number of activities and on the number of news to be diffused, a tighter rhythm can be chosen at any moment. The newsletter gives information about all Globethics.net activities and events and it disseminates news that Globethics.net participants wish to communicate to other recipients. The newsletters are always accessible in the corresponding folder in the "publication" section on our website: <http://www.globethics.net/publications/>.

5.3 Working Groups

Initially, three thematic working groups were created within Globethics.net. At the Bangkok conference, this number was enlarged to eight. Each working group is animated by a contact person, most of them are individual users of Globethics.net (i.e. only two are animated by the secretariat). None of these contact persons is remunerated in any kind by the organisation.

The existing working groups are interested in the following topics:

- 1) The ethics of alternative economic systems: economic and business ethics, corporate social responsibility.

- 2) Fundamentalism and Ethics: ethical issues arising from the resurgence and persistence of political and religious conservatism and fundamentalist movements.
- 3) Gender and Ethics: gender related studies on ethical issues.
- 4) The ethics of migration: ethical issues in migration policies and restrictions to migration movements.
- 5) The ethics of Church-State relations: moral considerations around the definition of the relationships between the Church and the State in specific countries, as well as between religion and the State in general.
- 6) Biomedical ethics in a global perspective: global perspectives on current issues in medical ethics.
- 7) The ethics of Christian-Muslim relations: debate on respect, tolerance, and credibility in an era of urgent inter-religious dialogue.
- 8) Clergy ethics: studies on moral norms for the clergy in the contextual local settings.

The working groups agreed on objectives, policies and methods, which vary from topic to topic. Thematic descriptions and an outline of the methods employed by the respective groups can be found in the corresponding section on the Globethics.net website.

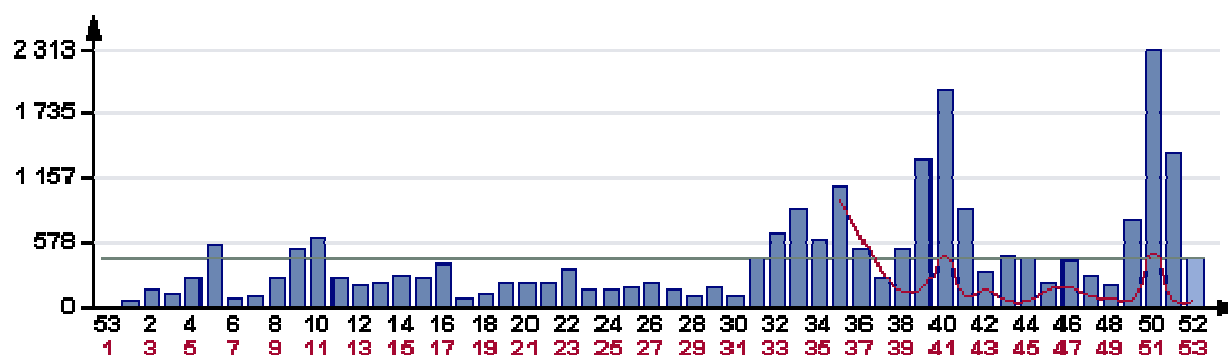
As the working groups section on the Globethics.net internet platform was active only as of December 2005, its success could not yet be assessed for the period of the present report. However, it turned out rapidly that the animation of the working groups requires intensive support from the secretariat, a task which can be difficult to carry out at certain moments with the current amount of personnel available.

5.4 Website Audience

Active use of the Globethics.net website must be encouraged as one of the main priorities for 2006. The aftermath of the Bangkok conference was dedicated to a large extent to the remodelling of the internet platform in order to make the various tools for online dialogue better accessible. The separation between public documents and protected files was improved and a specific section attracting the attention of visitors to Calls for Papers for conferences around the world was introduced. However, Globethics.net will continue to strive at encouraging more active participation on the website. In particular, the platform shall be more consistently used for sharing documents, discussing current topics and carrying out particular research projects. The working groups and the specific portal for their activities represent a key element for reaching this goal.

Statistically, the audience of 2005 can be measured as follows:

- Over the year, the total number of visits increased by 424% to almost 2'500 individual visits.
- Graphically, the number of pages visited can be presented as follows:



Source: www.xiti.com [accessed February 28, 2006]

- The highest increase in visits can be seen in week 40 (the week after the annual conference) and in week 50/51 (the weeks in which information about the modified website containing the working groups as well as the first newsletter were sent to the participants).
- October and November, were months with low visit rates. To a large extent, this was due to the website modification process and to the corresponding absence of animation.
- With regard to geographical representation, however, the main part of users still stem from Europe and Northern America (almost 70%). During the months of the conference and onwards, however, the number of non-European visits shows considerable increase.

These figures demonstrate the direct connection between the employment of staff members who are in charge of animating the website and the number of visitors counted on the site.

6) Publications and Materials

6.1 Printed Publications

In 2005, the first book in the Globethics.net series, the publication series launched by the organisation, was published. This book, published by Acton Press at Nairobi, Kenya, appears as follows:

Stückelberger, Christoph/Mugambi, Jesse N.K. (eds.): *Responsible Leadership. Global Perspectives, Globethics.net Series No.1*, Nairobi: Acton Press, 2005. Apart from texts by the editors, the volume includes essays by: Jeffrey D. Sachs, Rachel Xiaohong Zhu, Samuel Kobia, Peter Walker/Ben Wisner, Jephthah K. Gathaka, Heidi Hadsell, Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar, Richard Ondji'i Toung, Pavel Shashkin, Paulo Carneiro de Andrade, Yahya Wijaya, and Arpad Ferencz.

As intended by the concept of Globethics.net, most articles are made available on its website: www.globethics.net/publications/index?folder_id=16693&n_past_days=99999. This part of the website is accessible to all visitors and the publications in this sector can therefore be downloaded by all users of the internet, which helps the authors of these texts to gain further visibility.

Another important pillar of the concept of the Globethics.net series is to make accessible in-print publications in southern countries at an affordable price. Globethics.net's fruitful collaboration with Acton Press in Nairobi will therefore continue. However, the intention of the series is also to give researchers from all parts of the world the opportunity to publish in books that are distributed on various continents. Globethics.net is therefore setting up collaboration with publishers on other continents as well. For the "northern" market, an agreement on collaboration could be found with WCC Press (Geneva) in November 2005. Collaboration with this publishing house is particularly valuable for Globethics.net as this publisher disposes of a wide distribution network, having a large number of costumers in particular in the United States. The first volume in the series will be re-edited by WCC Press and shall be released in April or May 2006.

6.2 Globethics.net Brochure

A second publication project, carried out, however, on a smaller scale, was the Globethics.net information leaflet which was, according to the general principles of Globethics.net, printed and distributed in India. Copies were given to all board members and to all participants at the Bangkok conference for wider distribution.

6.3 E-books and E-publications

An important area of interest for Globethics.net is to make accessible existing and new publications of particular relevance for ethical discourse and research in applied ethics as e-books on its website. In 2005, preparatory measures for becoming more involved in the provision of e-books and e-publications were taken, insofar as priorities were determined with some of the southern partners, and general concepts of implementation were discussed. It is one of Globethics.net's main priorities for 2006 to put these decisions into practice and to achieve visible results in the effort of contributing to tackle the lack of accessibility to affordable publications experienced by southern researchers. As it is visible from the financial statements, further efforts in this realm are crucial for Globethics.net in order to reach its overall aim. However, steps forward must be taken carefully as the field is dominated by complex legal and intellectual property questions, with regard particularly to the functioning of the internet.

7) IT-Support

It is a declared aim of Globethics.net to provide hardware and software assistance as well as IT-training for participating institutions where this is needed. In 2005, the organisation repeatedly assessed the IT related situation with its southern partners. Unsurprisingly, the lack of access to hardware, software and – above all – reliable and affordable internet access is a particular concern in Sub-Saharan Africa. The IT-support strategy of Globethics.net therefore focuses in particular on partner institutions and their affiliates in these parts of Africa, where laptop computers are identified as the best means to handle the frequent electricity cuts our partners experience in particular in D.R.Congo, Cameroon and Kenya. Globethics.net was able to provide assistance for the purchase of a state-of-the-art laptop to two teachers of participating institutions, based in Goma, DRC, and in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In both cases, and according to its strategy, Globethics.net provided part of the financing and set up an agreement that the hardware support in turn requires active participation in the work of Globethics.net.

In other cases, the support provided by Globethics.net concentrated on the use of the website and some general information related to standard software and the internet. Globethics.net also pays careful attention to making accessible open-source software on its website.

Globethics.net is keen to enlarge its IT-support activities, in particular also in the realm of a consistent open-access strategy. In order to reach this goal, the possibility of IT-support through Globethics.net shall be communicated more broadly among active participants.

8) Main Projects for 2006, Prepared in 2005

The most important projects of Globethics.net, set up in 2005 and under execution in 2006, include:

- A one-day workshop between Muslim and Christian Scholars on “The Use of (Holy) Scriptures in Conflict Resolution”, organised in collaboration with the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) before the Globethics.net board meeting on March 10, 2006, at Beirut, Lebanon. This workshop will bring together about 25 scholars and civil society practitioners involved in the issue of conflict resolution and peace promotion from the Lebanese context with the Globethics.net international board. An extensive report on this workshop will be made accessible on the Globethics.net website after the event.
- A second publication in the Globethics.net series, to be released in summer 2006. This volume will contain selected contributions from the Bangkok conference and will again be

published by Acton Press, WCC Press, and a local publisher in India or Indonesia yet to be identified.

- The international conference of the year 2006, to be held from August 27 to 31 at Huissen, The Netherlands. The conference will deal with the topic of “Fundamentalism and Ethics”, and will bring together around 50 scholars and practitioners interested in the ethical aspects of this theme (around 10 from the local context). Confirmed keynote speakers include: Prof. Nancy Ammerman (Boston), Dr. Nigel Dower (Aberdeen), and Dr. Guillermo Hansen (Buenos Aires). In order to encourage participation in the conference from as large a number of candidates as possible, Globethics.net issued a Call for Papers which is posted on its website and distributed mainly by the existing Globethics.net participants. See the Call for Papers together with an outline of the conference topic on the website: http://www.globethics.net/fs-search/file?file_id=20445. Selected contributions to the conference will be published in a third volume in the Globethics.net series.
- Globethics.net aims at setting up and launching joint research partnership projects between southern and northern participants, leading, if possible, to the completion of an academic qualification work by a young southern researcher. The projects shall deal with the question of the transmission and the formation of values in the context of globalisation, and shall provide, in the long term, a comparative picture of this issue by conducting joint research partnerships with institutions from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Funding partners for these specific projects were approached as of December 2005.
- A particular focus will be with the issue of gender ethics. During her sabbatical year, Prof. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar (Bangalore, India), a founding board member of Globethics.net, will carry out a specific assignment to engage in research dialogue and promote global exchange on gender ethics. This will lead to a publication including contributions from researchers involved in Globethics.net to be completed by the end of 2006 which will be published as a fourth volume in the Globethics.net series.
- Particular attention will be given to further enlargement of the Globethics.net network, as well as to links with other organisations pursuing similar aims. Jean-Daniel Strub will participate, for example, in the seventh international conference of the International Development Ethics Association (IDEA), to be held at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda in July. On this occasion, visits to existing and potential participants from Eastern Africa will be scheduled. Furthermore, a special focus will be put on the enlargement of the network in Eastern Europe.

9) **Assessment Questions**

Globethics.net's major donor, SDC, has indicated the following assessment items which shall be answered specifically in this paragraph in order to provide the picture presented at the end of 2005. However, it needs to be repeated that a significant part of 2005's activities focused on consolidating and enlarging the network as well as on setting up the infrastructure. Increasing the direct output of activities will be given due priority for 2006.

- a) Number of participants from a non-Christian background (indicator 20%): *actual figure 28.8%, see above, paragraph 4.1.*
- b) Outcome of capacity building and training efforts with research partners (indicator: number of persons trained): *Ten Globethics.net participants collaborated in the first volume published in the Globethics.net series and were given the opportunity to publish an article of their own in an international publication. 26 participants contributed with their own papers to the second international conference held at Bangkok and had the opportunity to engage in scholarly debates with other participants either following their keynote addresses or in workshop sessions. Out of these contributions, 23 were selected for publication in the second volume in the Globethics.net series, comprising the Bangkok materials. Individual feedback was given to each contributor by the editors of the volume.*

⇒ Capacity building measures and initiatives will have to be further developed in the near future, in particular through the research projects, working group activities, and the Call for Papers for the third conference launched all in 2005.
- c) Number of joint publications online and in-print: *one (number 2 in advanced phase of preparation).*
- d) Success in producing documents and books from a global ethical perspective: *see letter c.*
- e) Number of actively participating institutions and individuals: *45 institutions and almost 120 individuals by the end of 2005 (see the figures in section 4.1 above).*
- f) Number and quality of joint research projects: *Eight web-based working groups existing and three research partnership projects in elaboration.*
- g) Number of bibliographies and e-books put at the disposal of users: *0 bibliographies, 1 book (from the Globethics.net series). This area will be a main priority of the coming months.*
- h) Number of opportunities realised to valorise ethical research through development-relevant action: *Almost all of the southern participants (institutions and individuals) are – with their work in ethics – directly involved in development efforts: as teachers of ethics on the university level, as leaders of development NGO's, as consultants for development campaigns and projects, as consultants for or lobbyists with governments, as publishers, or as partners in dialogue with other religions or with the private sector.*

Most objectives of the logframe for the first year of the project phase 2005-2008 were met. Priority has to be given to the enlargement of the network in Eastern Europe and in transition countries, to the consolidation of web-based research and networking dialogue, to the accessibility of e-books and publications on the Globethics.net website, as well as to the enlargement of relevant IT-support for partners and affiliates.

10) Audited Financial Statements

10.1 Chairperson's Introduction

Globethics.net is pleased to share its audited financial statements for 2005. Initiated in the summer of 2004, the Globethics.net was legally constituted as an association in Switzerland as in March 2005 comprising a global network of institutions and individuals involved in applied ethics. Its primary aim is to facilitate institutions and researchers in the South to gain access and to share resources, debates, and contacts through web-based research activities, academic conferences, publishing, and active networking.

Currently, *Globethics.net* consists of more than 45 participating institutions and over 130 individuals from all continents, interlinking scientific research with development organisations concerned particularly with all issues related to social and global justice.

The governing body of *Globethics.net* is an internationally composed Board of eight members, representing six continents (with the chairperson and an international representative in addition). A list of the Board members can be found in the Annual Report. The governing Board and the network are served by an international secretariat of two based in Geneva: Ms Evelyn Appiah, Executive Assistant and Mr. Jean Daniel Strub, the Executive Coordinator. They started work in May and August respectively.

The operational highlights of the year 2005 are reported in the Annual Report.

As is evident, operational work to which the financial statements relate covers about two thirds of the year. This affects expenses more specifically where actual expenditure is below budget by about a third. This is the case mainly in two areas: electronic networking and website development which started late in the year, and the annual conference in Bangkok which was cheaper than planned partly because of rigorous cost control and partly because several participants had to cancel their participation due to unforeseen reasons at the last minute.

The income was lower than budgeted due to the fact that the contribution of SDC could only start in mid year. Combined with lower expenses than budgeted, the year ended with a small surplus of CHF 6,595.

Responses to additional funding applications will be available in 2006. Indeed a significant contribution is confirmed for early 2006 and we are confident Globethics.net will be able to meet its obligations expected in the first part of 2006 including the annual Board meeting in Beirut which is this year combined with a regional workshop on the ethics of conflict resolution, co-organized by Globethics.net.

We are deeply grateful for the contributions of various donors in cash and time. We look forward to your continued support.

10.2 Auditor's Report



Report of the Statutory Auditors to the General Assembly of GLOBETHICS.NET, Geneva

As statutory auditors, we have audited the accounting records and financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, cash position and notes) of Globethics.net as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the Swiss profession, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accounting records and financial statements comply with Swiss law, Globethics.net statutes and its accounting principles as described in note 2 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Geneva, 3rd March 2006

FIDUSAP
Françoise Sapin

Swiss certified Accountant
Auditor in charge

Appendices:

- I Balance Sheet
- II Income Statement
- III Cash Position
- IV Notes to the Financial Statement

10.3 Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET	
As of December 31, 2005	
Assets	
Cash in Bank	6'288
Cash with ECLOF	307
Advance Rental paid for January 2006	-
Total Assets	6'595
Liabilities and Fund Balances	
Liabilities	
Fund Balances	
Excess of Contributions over Expenses	6'595
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	6'595

10.4 Accounts (Income statement)

Account 2005				
For the Period January 1 to December 31, 2005				
In CHF				
INCOME		Budget	Account 2005	Variance
A	Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) <i>(only started to pay mid of 2005)</i>	150'000	125'000	25'000
B	Other Donors			
	Aprodev	16'000	13'000	3'000
	<i>(3000 more expenses in 2004, therefore less available in 2005)</i>			
	Foundations	134'000	75'000	59'000
	<i>(additional foundations approached but decisions to be taken in 2006)</i>			
	Members		150	(150)
	Bread for All		700	(700)
	Income from Publications		59	(59)
C	Bank Interest Income in 2005		40	(40)
	Total	300'000	213'949	86'051
EXPENDITURE				
1.1	Website	10'000	10'736	(736)
1.2	Electronic Networking and Publications	65'000	15'313	49'687
1.2.1	Technical Support		7'160	
1.2.2	Translations		799	
1.2.3	Print Publications		7'354	
1.2.4	Subscriptions		-	
1.2.5	E-books		-	
1.3	Yearly International Conference	80'000	57'443	22'557
2.1	Staff Salaries and Social Services	79'000	72'933	6'067
2.2	Office Infrastructure	14'000	19'624	(5'624)
2.3	Travel	8'000	3'768	4'232
3.1	Board Governing Structure	15'000	11'537	3'463
3.2	Project Management (Remuneration Institution of Chairperson)	13'000	13'000	-
4.1	Audit	4'000	3'000	1'000
4.2	External Evaluation	-		
	Total	288'000	207'354	80'646
	Surplus	12'000	6'595	

ACCOUNTS 2005: Details and Comments

For the Period January 1 to December 31, 2005

In CHF

	Budget	Accounts 2005
1.1 Website	10'000	10'736
<i>(including installation charges)</i>		
1.2 E-Networking and Publications	65'000	15'313
1.2.1 Technical Support		7'160
1.2.2 Translations		799
1.2.3 Print Publications		7'354
1.2.4 Subscriptions		-
1.2.5 E-books		-
1.3 Yearly International Conference	80'000	57'443
<i>(last minute cancellations of participants and cheaper venue)</i>		
2.1 Staff Salaries and Social Services	79'000	72'933
<i>(started in May 2005)</i>		
2.2 Office Infrastructure	14'000	19'624
Rent		4'424
Mail		713
Telephone		392
Domain and Registration		228
Office Supplies		3'385
Bookkeeping		1'500
Lawyer's Fees for Statutes		742
Photocopy		562
Computers, Printer, Program, etc		6'080
Internet Charges		1'597
2.3 Travel	8'000	3'768
<i>(not full year)</i>		
3.1 Board Governing Structure	15'000	11'537
3.2 Project Management - (Remuneration	13'000	13'000
Institution of Chairperson)		
4.1 Audit	4'000	3'000
Total	288'000	207'354

10.5 Cash Position

Cash Position	
For the Period January 1 to December 31, 2005	
<i>In CHF</i>	
Cash Received from	
SDC	125'000
Aprodev	13'000
Foundations	75'000
Members	150
Bread for All	700
Publications	59
Interest Income from Bank for 2005	40
Total	213'949
Deposited to Globethics.net account at Post Bank	191'601
Less: Payments made to ECLOF for Globethics.net expenses	185'313
Cash Balance with Postbank	6'288
Accounting of Cash with ECLOF:	
Payments Made to ECLOF	185'313
Less: Payments made by ECLOF for Globethics.net	185'006
 Cash with ECLOF	 307

10.6 Notes to the Financial Statements

1. General

Globethics.net is a global network of institutions and individuals involved in applied ethics. It was created in August 2004, with the primary aim to facilitate institutions and researchers in the South to gain access and to share resources, debates, and contacts through web-based research activities, academic conferences, publishing, and active networking.

The governing body of Globethics.net is an internationally composed Board of eight members, representing six continents (with the chairperson and an international representative in addition).

- Asia : Prof. Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar, India
- Middle East: Mr. Samuel Rizk, Lebanon
- Africa: Prof. Dr. Muteho Kasongo, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Latin America: Prof. Dr. Paulo Carneiro de Andrade, Brazil
- North America: Prof. Dr. Heidi Hadsell, USA
- Europe: Mr. Pavel Shaskin, Russia
- International Representative: Dr. Martin Robra, WCC, Switzerland
- Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Christoph Stueckelberger,

Currently, *Globethics.net* consists of more than 45 participating institutions and over 130 individuals from all continents, interlinking scientific research with development organisations concerned particularly with all issues related to social and global justice.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Swiss law and the statutes of the Association.

2.2 Recognition of income, contribution and expenditure

- Income and expenses in the income statement are accounted for on an accrual basis.
- Contributions received from donors are accounted for on a cash basis.

2.3 Foreign Exchange

The books of account are maintained in Swiss francs. Contributions in other currencies are recorded when received in Swiss francs. There are no exchange gains or losses.

The annual report and the audited account were approved by the board of Globethics.net on March 11, 2006 and by the General Assembly on April 6, 2006.

Appendix

Addresses and Board Members

Globethics.net International Secretariat

150, route de Ferney
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel.: ++41 22 791 62 49 / ++41 22 791 62 67
Fax: ++41 22 710 23 86
secretariat@globethics.net

Staff:

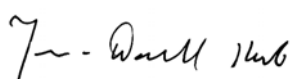
Ms Evelyn Appiah
Executive Assistant
appiah@globethics.net

Mr. Jean-Daniel Strub
Executive Coordinator
strub@globethics.net

Board Members (as of 31 December 2005)

- Asia : Prof. Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar, India
- Middle East: Mr. Samuel Rizk, Lebanon
- Africa: Prof. Dr. Muteho Kasongo, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Latin America: Prof. Dr. Paulo Carneiro de Andrade, Brazil
- North America: Prof. Dr. Heidi Hadsell, USA
- Europe: Mr. Pavel Shaskin, Russia
- International Representative: Dr. Martin Robra, WCC, Switzerland
- Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger, Switzerland

Geneva, March 3, 2006



Jean-Daniel Strub



Evelyn Appiah



Christoph Stückelberger