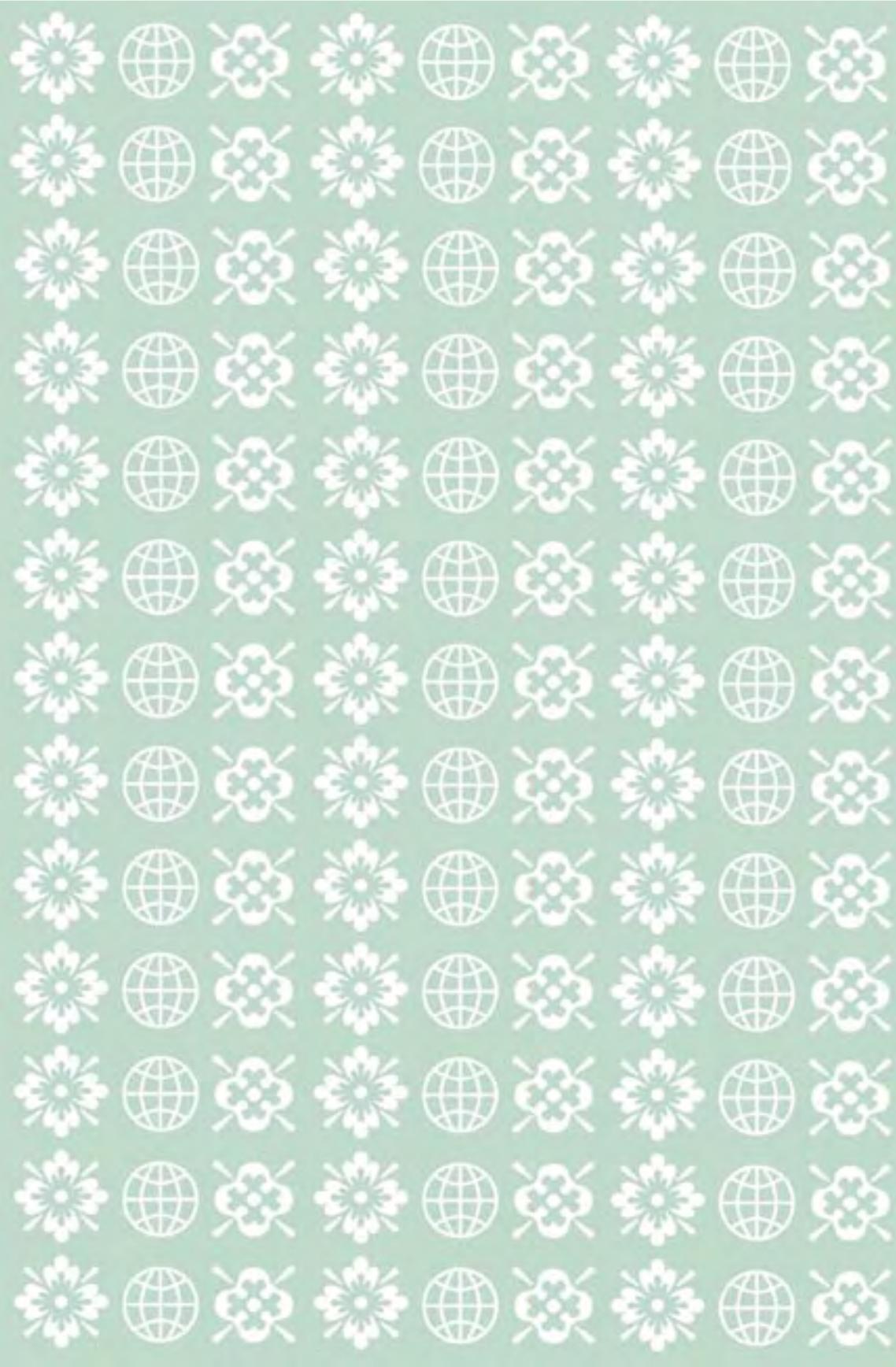




2006 WANGO  
*Awards*  
*Ceremony*

WANGO Awards



# *Awards Banquet Program*

*April 21, 2007*

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*Albacete, Spain*

*Master of Ceremonies*

**Dr. Noel Brown**

President, Friends of the United Nations  
Chair, WANGO Awards Committee

*Awardees*

**Environment Award**

Altai Foundation

*Received by:* Slava Trigubovich, Founder

**Family & Peace Award**

Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman

*Received by:* H.E. Dr. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida, Founder

**Human Rights Award**

Free the Children

*Received by:* Craig Kielburger, Founder

*Entertainment*

*Awardees*

**Peace & Security Award**

Paz y Cooperación

*Received by:* Joaquín Antuña, Founder

**Education Award**

South Society for Special Education

*Received by:* Mattar Abu-Rakhiya, President

**Civil Society Development Award**

Ashoka

*Received by:* Dr. Iman Bibars

Regional Director, Middle East/North Africa (MENA)



The Altai Foundation is a non-profit organization in Russia devoted to protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Altai Mountains, and to supporting initiatives that sustain, enhance, and expand Russia's network of nature reserves, known as "zapovedniks."

Altai is a region of Siberia located at the center of Central Asia, at the juncture of Russia, China, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan. "The Golden Mountains of Altai" is a World Heritage Site, designated by UNESCO as a place of such outstanding value to humanity that it belongs to all the peoples of the world. UNESCO notes that the Altai Mountains offer the most complete sequence of altitudinal vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, and sub-alpine vegetation to alpine vegetation. In particular, the Altai Mountains were designated as a World Heritage site because the region represents an important and unique center of biodiversity of mountain plant and animal species. One of the rarest of these is the mystical snow leopard. The Altai region is the last breeding area in Russia of this globally endangered feline, which has declined to the point where fewer than 120 still exist in Russia.

The Altai Foundation works toward promoting a more respectful attitude toward the natural environment. It was founded by Slava Trigubovich, an anti-poaching zapovednik ranger and conservation biologist who had previously headed the Siberian Interregional Center Zapovedniki (SICZ), and Vladislav Shilo, the internationally renowned Director of the Novosibirsk Zoo. Their vision was to create an organization that contributes in concrete ways to greater balance between people and nature. Slava Trigubovich is the current President of the Altai Foundation.

The Altai Foundation is active in a number of important initiatives. It provides competitive funding of programs and projects directed for the study and preservation of nature, including rare and endangered animals and plants of Russia. It renders assistance to the zapovedniks and other protected areas of the Altai and throughout Russia, and the foundation offers educational, consulting, and informational services on problems in zapovedniks and protected areas. The Foundation's promotion of a more balanced ecological outlook has resulted in more active engagement of wide segments of the population in nature protection and sustainable development. The foundation has also developed professional partnerships, and cooperation in the field of wildlife management, with both Russian and international organizations.

In taking the decision to present the Altai Foundation with the 2006 Environment Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were impressed with the pioneering effort to protect the nature reserves of the Altai Republic and to promote a more balanced ecological approach. Through recognizing such effort, greater international awareness can be directed to both the Altai region and the exceptional work of the Altai Foundation.

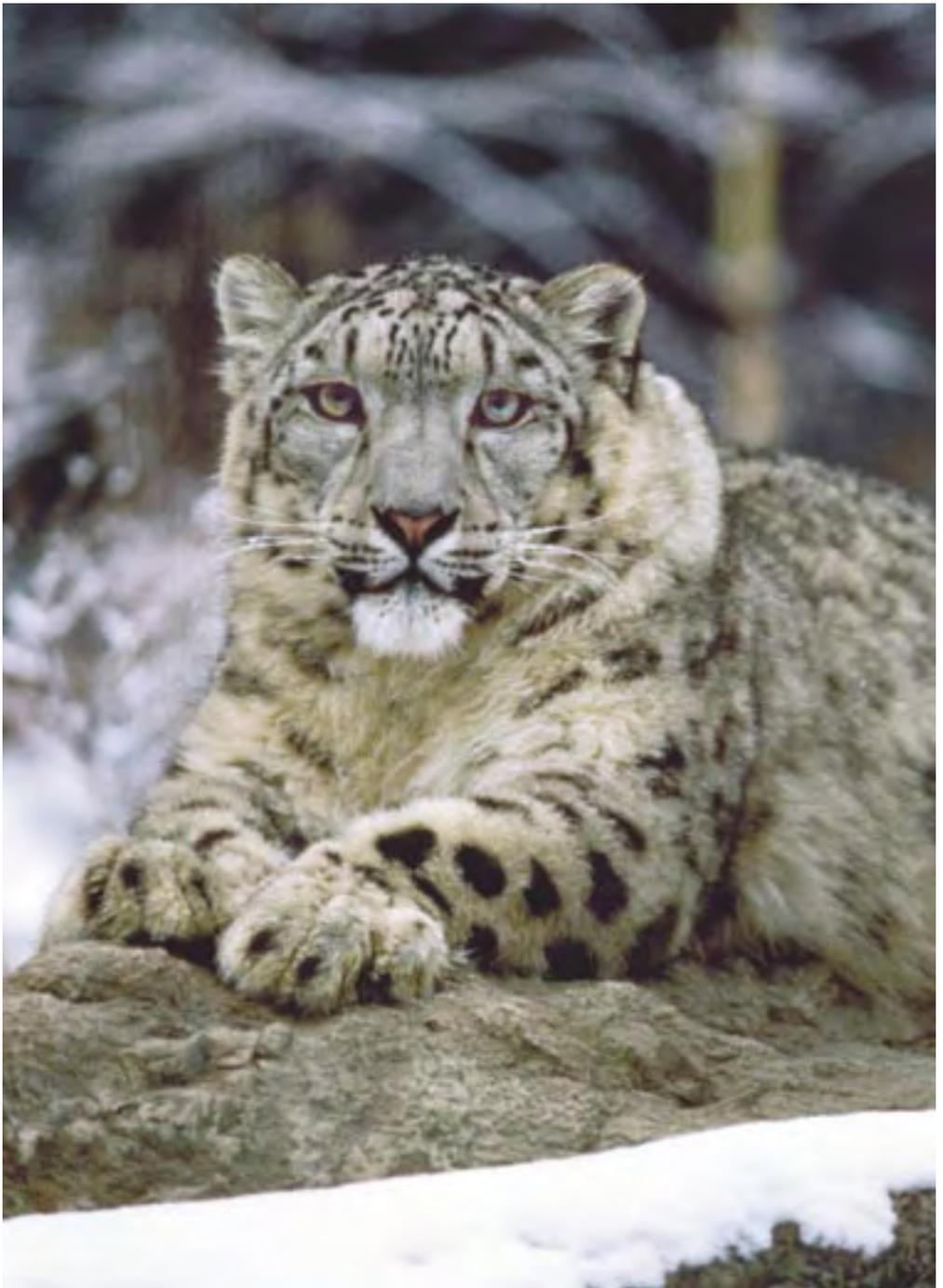


Photo By: *National Geographic c/o The Snow Leopard Trust*

[www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org)

**BETTER LIFE PROGRAMME FOR THE AFRICAN RURAL WOMAN**



**T**he Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman (BLPAW) was established in 1987 to enhance the status of women in rural areas of Nigeria. Originally christened the Better Life Programme for the Rural Woman (BLP), it was rechristened with its current name to reflect its expanded mission to include all African women, not just Nigerian women. It now has foreign chapters in several African nations, as well as in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and Spain. It was founded by H. E. Dr. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida, former first lady of Nigeria and the 1991 African prize Laureate.

The BLPAW is a non-governmental organization committed to help African rural women by harnessing resources that touch on every aspect of their lives, including health, harmful traditional practices, socio-political advancement, economic empowerment, education, legal rights, and family issues. It has been extraordinarily successful in advancing its goals.

By 1992, the Better Life Programme had launched 9,114 cooperatives societies, 1,435 cottage industries, 1,748 new farms and gardens, 135 fish and livestock farms, and 1,094 women's centers. By 1993, it has established 495 shops and markets, 195 social welfare programs, and 420 multipurpose women educational centers. Under the leadership of Dr. Babangida, Nigerian women were empowered to improve their lives through programs in adult education, primary health, agriculture, trade, crafts and food processing. Agriculture became the core basis for strengthening women's access to and ownership of land. Dr. Babangida championed women's issues vigorously, conscious of the fact that if the situation of women improved, that of the family and, by extension, the nation will also improve.

Today, BLPAW is active in improving the lives of women in many nations. It provides easier access to financial opportunities for micro-entrepreneurship programs, educates women on the better avenues for marketing products, and encourages local fabrication of simple tools and instruments to reduce labor intensiveness and improve productivity. It has set up scholarship programs for indigent female students, promotes adult literacy programs, and trains thousands of women in education centers. It advocates free childcare education, helps to provide safe drinking water, and is working with governments and NGOs to reduce child mortality. BLPAW is undertaking educational and immunization campaigns and behavioral change programs to prevent malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases, while also working against prosti-

tution, human trafficking, and abuse. In terms of the environment, BLPAP promotes alternative sources of energy to conserve African forests, addresses issues of sanitation, combats environmental hazards and pollution, plants trees to prevent desert encroachment, and advances environmental awareness. Furthermore, this international NGO is continuing to build networks, providing information technology, and working toward conflict prevention and resolution.

Advancing gender equality and women economic empowerment is central to the attainment of its objectives. As noted by BLPAP, "In a continent where the woman has to compete with a gender that is economically and educationally more opportuned, where the woman in most cases is disadvantaged and often times considered irrelevant politically, our programs have been aimed at improving the economic base of the woman and enhancing her educational status, thereby reducing her poverty level, and by extension, that of her community and the continent at large."

In taking the decision to present the Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman with the 2006 Family & Peace Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were most impressed by BLPAP's significant, multi-disciplinary accomplishments in enhancing the status of women throughout Africa and in promoting unity and cooperation among African women. BLPAP has made significant improvement in the lives and well-being of women and in so doing has made substantial improvements in their families and society in general. Such activities have advanced peace at all levels — individual, family, society, nation, and world. WANGO is delighted to recognize such efforts and bring greater worldwide awareness of the extraordinary achievements and service of the Better Life Programme for the African Rural Woman.



**F**ree the Children is the largest network in the world of children helping children through education. Unlike any other children's charity, Free the Children is both funded and driven by children and youth. Through this unique youth-driven approach, more than one million young people have been involved in its innovative programs in more than 45 countries.

The mission of Free the Children is to free young people from the idea that they are powerless to bring about positive social change, and encourage them to act now to improve the lives of young people everywhere. It was founded in 1995 by international child rights activist Craig Kielburger when he was 12 years old, when he gathered 11 school friends to begin fighting child labor.

Free The Children's many accomplishments in the areas of education, alternative income, health care, water and sanitation provision, and peace-building have earned three Nobel Peace Prize nominations, and facilitated high profile partnerships with organizations such as the United Nations and Oprah's Angel Network. Free the Children was selected as the lead non-governmental organization partner by the United Nations Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Free the Children has been featured on CNN, 60 minutes, Good Morning America, the Today Show, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Times of London*, and many other major broadcast and print media around the world.

Following its founding vision, Free the Children has lobbied corporations to adopt standard labeling for child-labor free products, worked with the Canadian government to pass a law to prosecute Canadians who travel overseas to sexually exploit children, and has successfully worked with the Brazilian government to allocate an additional \$1 million for programs to help support child laborers. Beyond its many efforts directed toward basic human rights for children, Free the Children has also built more than 450 primary schools, providing education to over 40,000 children every day, and has delivered 200,000 school and health kits to students around the world. It has also shipped \$11 million dollars in essential medical supplies to 40 countries, implemented alternative income projects that have assisted more than 22,500 women, provided healthcare centers and community funding assistance to more than 500,000 people, and provided access to clean water and improved

sanitation for 132,000 people. Its Schools for Peace help war-affected children rebuild their lives and its War is Not a Game Campaign raises awareness of the devastating effects war has on children.

In taking the decision to present Free the Children with the 2006 Human Rights Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were most impressive with Free the Children's innovative method of making a world more fit for children by creating a network of children and youth to address societal challenges. Free the Children has been pioneering a new path toward dealing with child abuse and exploitation, providing educational opportunity and medical assistance, and freeing children from the idea that they are not old enough or smart enough or capable enough to change the world.





**P**az y Cooperación is a non-governmental organization centered on promoting a movement of non-violence and creativity to build a world of solidarity. Founded in 1982 by Joaquín Antuña, a pioneer in development and education for peace, Paz y Cooperación focuses particularly on key areas of disarmament, development, human rights, solidarity actions, and global peace education.

For 25 years, working under the motto of “create and survive,” Paz y Cooperación has been tirelessly promoting universal education directed at the most vulnerable sectors, strengthening development of local and national agricultural economies, reinforcing local production and local business networks, and improving health and medical services (including efforts against malaria, AIDS and other diseases). It likewise has been helping marginalized populations have access to decent housing, promoting gender equality, and advancing food safety projects. Its worldwide School Award initiative recognizes students, teachers, and schools that work towards the ideals of peace, multicultural relations and diversity.

Paz y Cooperación has been particularly active in Africa, the Middle East, Central America, and the indigenous communities in Mexico. In Africa, Paz y Cooperación has been working for the development of the production sector and establishing infrastructure, leading to macroprojects for agricultural development. For example, in Mauritania, Paz y Cooperación has been rehabilitating agricultural land for production of rice, as well as constructing a maternal and child health hospital and electrification project. A microcredit project is being implemented in Ghana and South Africa and pediatric services are being provided in Equatorial Guinea. In Colombia, South America, Paz y Cooperación is training women in basic skills and in Mexico, they are working toward health and environmental sustainability. In Nicaragua, Paz y Cooperación is strengthening the capacity of the agricultural producers while fostering balance between people and the environment. Among the projects in the Middle East, where Paz y Cooperación has been working since the 1990s, mainly in Jordan and Palestine, are efforts to provide medical supplies to children with disabilities and special needs.

In taking the decision to present Paz y Cooperación with the 2006 Peace & Security Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were most impressed with the quarter-century of innovative service of Paz y Cooperación to tackle fundamental issues related to peace. Paz y Cooperación’s work touches on all of the Millennium Development Goals, dealing with the causes of violence in an effort to build a peaceful planet.



**T**he South Society for Special Education is the only NGO in Jordan that provides integrated services addressing the welfare and rehabilitation of those with different kinds of disabilities. The Society was set up in 1986 in response to the lack of services for children with special needs in the south of Jordan. Among the range of services that it provides are schooling and physiotherapy for children with physical and mental disabilities.

The South Society for Special Education is headquartered in the Governorate of Ma'an, the largest governorate in the Kingdom, located approximately 200 kilometers south of Amman, and famous worldwide for the Rose Red City of Petra. But Ma'an and other southern governorates had suffered for a long time without services for those with disabilities related to hearing, sight, motor skills, and developmental (or learning) disabilities. Until the formation of the South Society for Special Education, such services were largely limited to the capital of Amman and major cities.

The Society conducts a wide range of community-based rehabilitation programs, training courses, workshops, medical seminars, and educational and instructional lectures on subjects related to causes and management of impairments, and provides job opportunities for those with special needs. For example, it runs a Knowledge Station, opened by King Abdullah II in May of 2003, with the vision of spreading computer literacy. In 2003, the Society's Knowledge Station offered 20 courses, with the main aim that of training people with special needs, such as deaf children, on computer skills, while also serving the people of the local community.

Known for its sound management and partnerships with various foreign organizations, the Society is now developing mobile clinics, with modern equipment and doctors specialized in mother and child care, various impairments, and family counseling. Such mobile clinics offer the opportunity to educate local communities on pre-marital testing and natal care; offer guidance to pregnant mothers; provide medication for those with special needs, the poor, and the destitute; supply rehabilitation equipment and hearing aids; and assist with early identification and intervention for various impairments.

In taking the decision to present the South Society for Special Education with the 2006 Education Award, on the recommendation of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council was particularly impressed with the com-

mitment and passion of the Society to address this critical unmet need. For years, children with special needs in the south of Jordan — whether hearing impairments, blindness, or learning disabilities, and whether caused by genetics, health issues, accidents, environment factors, or so forth — lacked services that could greatly assist them on their life course. The Society has not only tackled this problem, but has done it in a very substantial way, reaching beyond Ma'an to other southern governorates, expanding its services and involving foreign partners. It is because of this spirit of service that the South Society for Special Education has been selected for the 2006 Education Award.



**A**shoka is a global organization that searches the world for social entrepreneurs — extraordinary individuals with unprecedented ideas for change in their communities. Ambitious and persistent, social entrepreneurs advance innovative solutions to societies' most pressing social problems, and rather than leave the solution up to the government or business sectors, solve the problem by changing the system, spreading the solution, and persuading entire societies to take new leaps. Ashoka identifies and invests in these social entrepreneurs and their NGOs, generally when no one else will — supporting the individual, idea, and institution through all phases of their career. Ashoka's mission is to shape a citizen sector that is entrepreneurial, productive, and globally integrated.

Ashoka's vision is that of a global society that is able to respond quickly and effectively to social challenges everywhere. Founded by Bill Drayton in 1980, Ashoka now operates in 53 countries across Asia, Africa, the Americas and Central Europe. It has assisted 1,500 social entrepreneurs, providing them with close to 40 million dollars in direct funding, analyzing their strategies, offering professional services, and — by virtue of Ashoka's reputation for selectivity — lending credibility to their efforts. Those Fellows have transformed the lives of millions of people in thousands of communities worldwide. And Ashoka has done this in just 25 years, since it elected the first Ashoka Fellows in India in 1981.

Ashoka works somewhat like a venture capital firm. It seeks high yields from modest, well-targeted investments. However, the returns it seeks are not in profits, but in advances in education, environmental protection, rural development, poverty alleviation, human rights, healthcare, care for the disabled, care for children at risk, and other fields. It began with a budget of less than \$50,000; today, it has 120 staff members and spends more than 7 million dollars a year financing its Fellows around the world.

For example, among the entrepreneurs Ashoka has backed is Rodrigo Baggio and his organization, the Committee to Democratize Information Technology (CDI). With support from Ashoka, Rodrigo has trained almost one million at-risk children with computer and Internet skills. Initially creating a network of more than 200 self-managed computer schools in the urban slums of 17 Brazilian states, CDI is now bridging the digital divide in several other nations.

In taking the decision to present Ashoka with the 2006 Civil Society Development Award, the WANGO Awards Committee and the WANGO International Council were impressed with Ashoka's innovative role in leading the transformation of the civil society sector. Ashoka is an extraordinary catalyst for change. By working with social entrepreneurs — individuals who are both visionaries and realists, concerned with the practical implementation of their vision above all else — Ashoka is pioneering a method of tackling major social issues and fostering new ideas for wide-scale change. Few organizations have had the impact that Ashoka has in advancing a global civil society that can respond quickly and effectively to social challenges and in so many realms of activity. It is fitting that Ashoka, Bill Drayton, and NGOs supported by Ashoka are featured in a book titled *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas* (David Bornstein, Oxford University Press, 2004). And it is especially fitting that Ashoka, in this its 25<sup>th</sup> year since giving its first support to social entrepreneurs, shall receive the 2006 Civil Society Development Award.



*2002*

**WANGO Peace & Security Award**

Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress

**WANGO Education Award**

African American Islamic Institute

**WANGO Environment Award**

Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada)

**WANGO Human Rights Award**

Bahrain Women's Society

**WANGO Family & Peace Award**

Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization

**WANGO Interreligious Cooperation Award**

Bishop William E. Swing & United Religions Initiative

**WANGO Universal Peace Award**

Prof. Dr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza

*2003*

**WANGO Peace & Security Award 2003**

Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP)

**WANGO Environment Award**

Green Belt Movement (GBM)

**WANGO Human Rights Award**

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

**WANGO Universal Peace Award**  
H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

*2004*

**WANGO Civil Society Development Award**  
Star Kampuchea

**WANGO Family & Peace Award**  
United Families International

**WANGO Environment Award**  
Buccoo Reef Trust

**WANGO Peace, Security & Reconciliation Award**  
PeaceWorks Foundation

**WANGO Humanitarian Award**  
Small Kindness

**WANGO Universal Peace Award**  
H.E. Kenneth Kaunda

*2005*

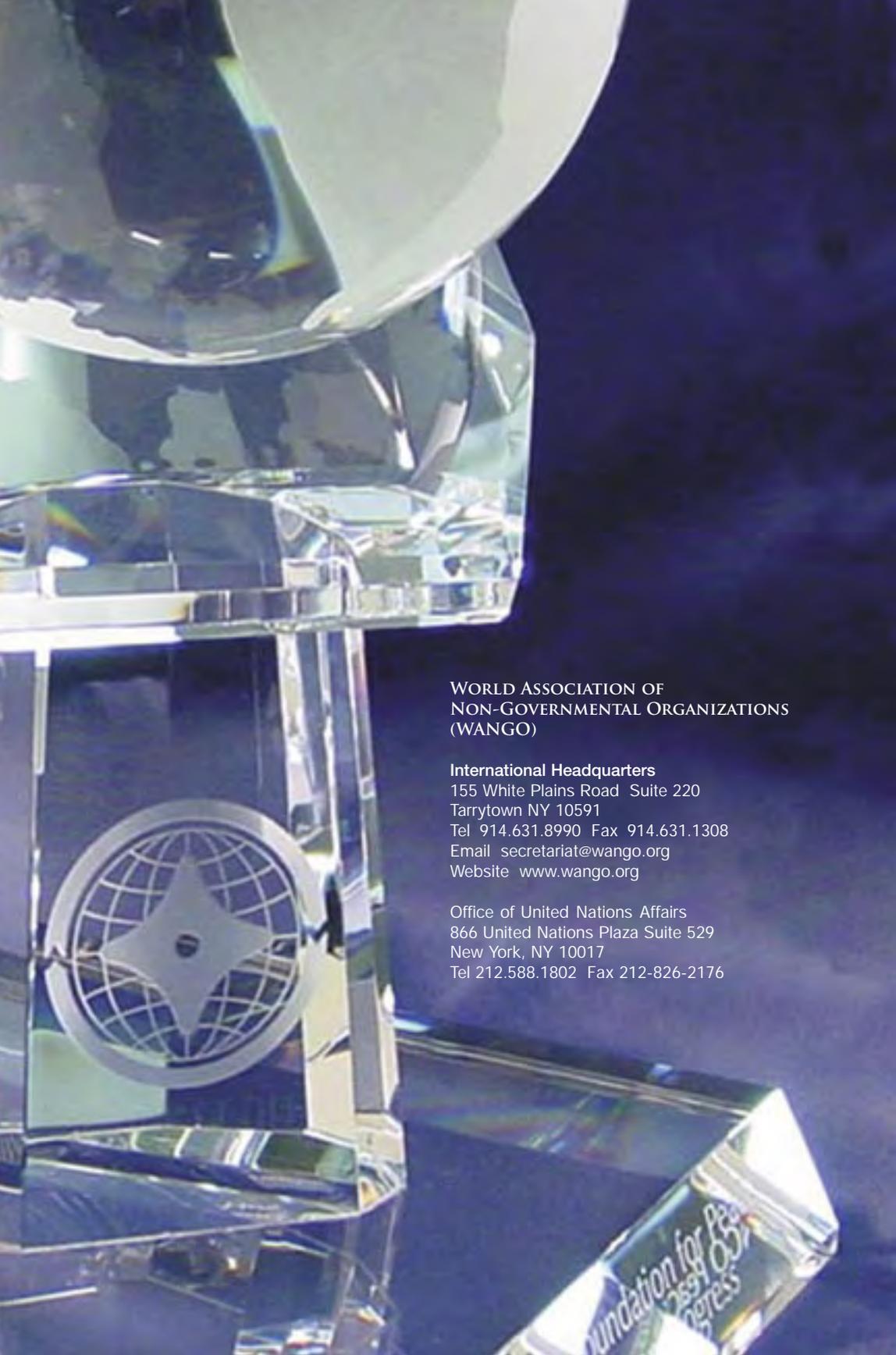
**WANGO Education Award**  
Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana

**WANGO Humanitarian Award**  
Ladies Charitable Society

**WANGO Society & Health Award**  
Hogar Crea Dominicano

**WANGO Peace & Security Award**  
Roots of Peace

**WANGO Century of Service to Humanity and Society Award**  
Rotary International



**WORLD ASSOCIATION OF  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
(WANGO)**

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