

**WORLD FAITHS DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE**  
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*BULLETIN NO.6, July 2000*

### **Report by Bain and Co on the future of the WFDD**

The report on the WFDD, carried out by the management consultancy firm, Bain & Co, is now available. As it is a lengthy document and difficult to reproduce because of the large number of power point slides included, we are enclosing the Executive Summary and the Summary of Recommendations, which are also to be found on the WFDD web site. If anyone would like the full version, please write to us at our office in Oxford.

At the conference of religious leaders and World Bank officials, held in Washington in November 1999, it was recognised that the World Faiths Development Dialogue had given ample evidence of its potential as a creative new way of trying to achieve some positive changes in favour of the most impoverished people in the world. It was, however, clear that three members of staff working with very limited financial resources could not fulfil this potential.

The decision was thus taken to contract Bain & Co. to carry out a strategic and organisational review of the WFDD. The aim was to consider how best to structure the WFDD as an organisation with effective management and sufficient human and financial resources to be able to carry out its task.

Bain's staff carried out extensive interviews with participants of the WFDD in India, Tanzania, the United States and the United Kingdom and finally produced a proposal in April this year, which was approved, with some amendments, by the WFDD Steering Group. The final version was also discussed

by WFDD's two chairs: Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, at a meeting at the World Bank on 8 May. The decision was made to move forward, broadly on the basis of the recommendations made in the report.

The implementation of these recommendations has already begun with the appointment of interim trustees and preparations for the recruitment of a new Executive Director. Katherine Marshall, from the World Bank, and Rev. Canon Richard Marsh, representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, are acting as Chief Executive Officers. It is hoped that by early 2001 the new WFDD will have taken recognisable shape.

The existing staff in Oxford will continue until the end of the year. Neither the location of the new office, nor the future name of the WFDD have yet been decided. We shall provide regular updates on the web site on the course of events.

### **Guatemala**

The inter-faith group in Guatemala has continued to meet. Now officially called the Guatemalan Inter-Religious Dialogue, (whose Spanish acronym is DIRG) it represents the main religious bodies in Guatemala, including Mayan spirituality. The DIRG has established itself as an autonomous entity but it will continue to work closely with the WFDD on matters of common concern.

The first of these is to make a contribution to the design of the Guatemalan education programme, which is currently the subject

of a national debate and will be partly financed by the World Bank.

### **Translations of “Poverty and Development: an Inter-faith Perspective”**

This booklet was published last November by the WFDD, as a result of the work done on our Comment on the World Bank’s *World Development Report 2000/1*. It has been welcomed by many individuals and groups in both North and South, as a useful introduction to a debate about the relationship between religion and development. It raises many questions about what the practical consequences of religious beliefs for development policies and practice should be.

At the request of WFDD participants, “Poverty and Development” has now been translated into Spanish, French and Hindi and translations are under way into Swedish, Portuguese and Amharic. All these translations, as well as the publication of the original booklet, have been made possible by financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, to whom we are very grateful.

The Spanish translation is already available from: CEDEPCA  
1a calle 7-48, Zona 1  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
Fax: (502) 592 7138  
E-mail: [cedepca@pronet.net.gt](mailto:cedepca@pronet.net.gt).  
It is also available from the WFDD in Oxford.

The Amharic one will be available from:  
CRDA: P.O.Box 5674  
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA.  
Fax: (251) 1 65 22 80. E-mail:  
[crda@telecom.net.et](mailto:crda@telecom.net.et)

The Swedish one will be available from:  
The Swedish Mission Council  
P.O. Box 1767  
Stockholm, SWEDEN  
Fax (46) 8 453 6889.

The French one will be available in August from the WFDD in Oxford.

The Hindi translation and also an English version printed in India, will soon be available from: Bandhwa Mukti Morcha, 7 Jantar Mantar, New Delhi 110 001, INDIA. E-mail: [bmm@del2.vsnl.net.in](mailto:bmm@del2.vsnl.net.in)

The Portuguese translation will be available from: ISAEC: Editora Sinodal  
Caixa Postal 11  
93.001-970 – São Leopoldo/RS  
BRAZIL  
Fax: (55) 51 590 2664  
[editora@editorasinodal.com.br](mailto:editora@editorasinodal.com.br)

### **Resignation of Prof Ravi Kanbur from the directorship of WDR 2000.**

It was with regret that WFDD received news of the resignation of Ravi Kanbur, with whom the WFDD has been in close contact during the last 18 months. While not always in agreement with him, the representatives from the faith communities who have been involved in seminars and other encounters with the *WDR* team, have learned a great deal from him and much appreciated his open mind.

WFDD hopes that the controversy raised within the World Bank by the final draft of the report will not mean that some of the most important points are watered down. (See WFDD’s *Occasional Paper no.3: A New Direction for World Development?*” for our most recent comments on the first full draft of the *WDR*.)

### **Millennium World Peace Summit for Religious and Spiritual Leaders**

This summit is being held in New York just before the UN General Assembly, with the aim of setting up a closer relationship between the religious leaders of the world and the UN agencies. The conference will emphasise the themes of Peace, Ecology and Poverty. WFDD has been asked to organise the sessions on Poverty.

