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CHILDREN OF THE WORLD  
ALLA VÄRLDENS BARN  
LOS NIÑOS DEL MUNDO



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# GENERAL



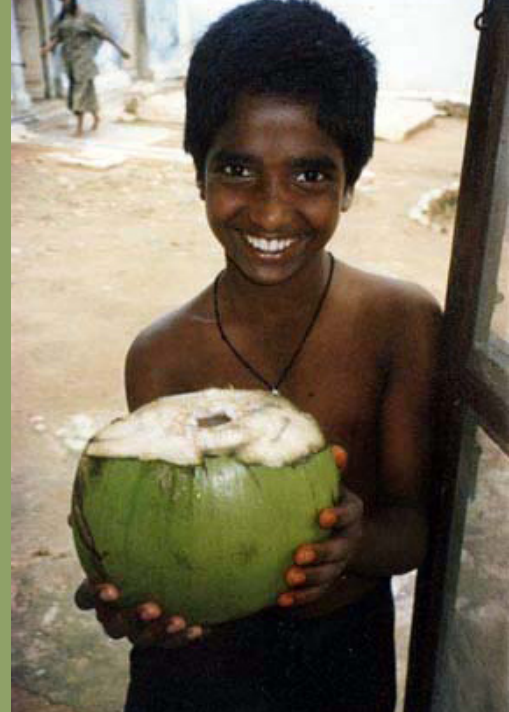
2006 was Interpedia's 33rd year of operation. It was the organization's first full year in Helsinki since removing the office from Vaasa. The consequences of this move were considerable: two thirds of the office staff were new, a record amount of new members joined Interpedia, as well as new adoption applicants. Globally, 2006 was also a year of big changes in intercountry adoptions. The popularity of adoptions increased and, simultaneously, several countries tightened up their terms of giving children up for adoption and emphasized the importance of domestic adoptions. The waiting time in China, especially, became considerably longer during 2006 which resulted in a marked decrease in the amount of children adopted from China - a total of 87 children in 2006 compared with 136 in 2005, to Finland via Interpedia. Interpedia stood for 40% of the children adopted to Finland via the various Finnish adoption service organizations.

2006 was a very challenging year in Interpedia's development cooperation activities. Interpedia had 2,113 sponsors at the year's end (compared with 2,084 in 2005). Sponsorship cooperation with two major partners abroad came to an end on 31 December 2005 and, as a result, about 300 sponsors left the programme. Financial contributions provided by the sponsors dropped to 450,000 euros in 2006, while it had been 580,000 euros in 2005. The situation became stable towards the end of 2006 and thanks to new partners abroad, the number of sponsors started to grow. The project subsidies that had been inadequately accounted or, in fact, totally unaccounted for during the previous years, were cleared with the Unit for Non-Governmental Organization of the Department for Development Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the year. Two new project plans were completed in early 2006, and the planning of new future projects were well under way towards the end of the year.

The leadership of Interpedia also changed in 2006. Ms Tarja Monto, Interpedia's Executive Director since many years, resigned and Mr Harri Hakola was appointed the new Executive Director.

The strategy work that was interrupted by the move to Helsinki, started again in the autumn.

# DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



## Sponsorship Programmes

As in earlier years, sponsorship programmes formed the heart of Interpedia's development cooperation in 2006. During the year, Interpedia passed on regular financial contributions provided by the sponsors to 14 different partners in eight countries. The children and their families within the sponsorship programmes benefited especially by means of improved opportunities to attend school and fulfil basic daily needs, and by consolidating family ties.

The funds raised in Finland were sent as financial support to the partner organizations which were responsible for the planning and implementation of practical measures. The sponsorship programmes raised a total of 447,860.17 euros which is 65% of the set target of 689,000 euros. 413,273 euros were sent as financial support to the partner organizations. Accrued financial support was delivered also to Malaysian Social Service and International Child Welfare Service - the two organizations with which cooperation came to an end in 2005. A total of 20% of sponsorship contributions was taken up by operational expenses in Finland.

At the end of 2006, Interpedia had 2,113 regular sponsors. Their total number grew by 29 sponsors. This was less than expected and Interpedia did not manage to abridge the gap in the number of sponsors, caused by the termination of contracts with two major cooperation partners in 2005.

Cooperation continued with all the sponsorship partners abroad in 2006. The major partners in 2006 were Families for All Children Foundation in Thailand (28% of the spon-

sors), German Church School in Ethiopia (10%), and Delhi Council for Child Welfare in India (8%). There was only a slim chance for expanding the activities as many sponsorship programmes were not able to accommodate for more children or families.

Since several sponsorship programmes were full, new partners were being surveyed in India, South Africa, and China. A new cooperation programme started with SA Cares for Life in South Africa. This cooperation started towards the end of 2006 and it will focus on a community-based family support programme. A decision was taken to launch a new sponsorship programme called Blue Sky Loving Home with Jian Hua Foundation in China, but the start-up was delayed to 2007.

In 2006, special attention was paid on refreshing the ties with the cooperation partners e.g. by visiting several of them. A total of ten visits were made to cooperation partners in India, Colombia, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Nepal.

## Development Cooperation Projects Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In 2006, a new cooperation development project started with Loo Niva organization in Nepal. The start-up was delayed a couple of months due to political instability in Nepal, but the operational goals for 2006 were, however, fulfilled. The Sexual Awareness project run by Los Pisingos in Colombia started towards the end of 2006 but the activities

were delayed until 2007. CORR's Crafts Project for Women in Bangladesh continued but due to the different book-keeping period in Bangladesh, the subsidy for 2006 was transferred to 2007. The Rubber Stamp project with FFAC in Thailand was interrupted after a mutual decision because of the partner's insufficient resources in handling the reporting of the project.

Interpedia applied for a subsidy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for projects run by CWISH and Maedot organizations. The subsidies were granted towards the end of 2006, but the sums were smaller than expected, á 50,000 euros per year. The projects will be implemented in 2007-2010. The subsidies of previous years that were unaccounted for were cleared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and cooperation with the Ministry was reinforced by increasing the communication with the contact person.

Towards the end of 2006, preparations for two new project plans for the applications in 2007 started with CWISH and Loo Niva in Nepal. In connection with the project planning trip, an official at the Department of Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Interpedia's development cooperation sites at Interpedia's request.

## Other Development Cooperation Activities

Materials intended for sponsors were updated and special attention was paid on the quality of the contents in letters sent to the sponsors. As planned, the sponsors were sent

two letters, in February and in July 2006. Both were delayed as compared with the plans. Pursuant to the model implemented in 2005, electronic newsletters were sent to approx. 500 sponsors four times in 2006. Interpedia's development cooperation activities were presented at the "World Village" festival and the "Marketplaces of Opportunities" in Lahti, Tampere, and Hyvinkää. Voluntary workers are an important resource in arranging various events as well as in translations and mailing of letters and journals.

By means of a conference subsidy granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the Nepalese organizations CWISH and Loo Niva visited Finland at Interpedia's request, in connection with the AEPF meeting arranged in the autumn. Interpedia applied to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an information subsidy to make a documentary together with Yhteiset Lapsemme ry, and to compile booklets that present the countries that Interpedia cooperates with. The Ministry granted 20,000 € for the booklets for 2007.

For the last six months of 2006, the composition of the development cooperation team was altered so that instead of two development cooperation officers, the team is composed of one development cooperation officer and one sponsorship secretary. The sponsorship database application was updated and developed together with Mr Ola Österbacka from OF Systems. Relationships towards other non-governmental organizations and actors were sounded out, in a small scale, in various events. Experiences were exchanged with the Sponsorship Department of Fida International - another Finnish sponsorship organization. Jute products were not sold in masses in 2006, and an inventory was made for a possible lump sale.



# INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS



## Interpedia as an Authorized Adoption Service Organization

Interpedia is one of the three authorized intercountry adoption service agencies in Finland. In 2006, Interpedia helped place 87 children in Finnish families, which is less than in the previous three years. The majority of the children came from China (26), Thailand (19), and Ethiopia (15). A total of 218 children were placed for adoption in Finland by the three adoption service agencies - this is 90 children less than in 2005. Interpedia covered a 40% share of the intercountry adoptions carried out in Finland via the adoption service agencies. All in all, there were about 3,300 intercountry adoptive children in Finland in December 2006.

Interpedia submitted 174 new applications and 12 requests for the extension of previous adoption permits for the approval of the Finnish Adoption Board in 2006. This meant an increase of approx. 90% compared with the previous year. The Finnish Adoption Board continued to readjust its policy. In 2006, the number of rejected applications and requests for additional home reports increased compared with previous years. Interpedia's adoption service staff further developed its consultation for municipal social workers as well as its instructions for home reporting.

By the end of 2006, Interpedia cooperated with ten (10) foreign adoption service agencies approved by the Finnish Adoption Board, in six (6) countries. Adoptions from China slowed down and this had a major impact on the total number of children placed for adoption in Finland and in other countries that receive adoptive children. Develop-

ment concerning child protection and domestic adoptions continued in Colombia. This has been reflected in the status of private children's homes as fewer children are placed for intercountry adoption through these children's homes. Interpedia's office in Ethiopia has established itself as an intercountry adoption agency and plays an active role in developing child protection services in Ethiopia. Interpedia's internal policies were also revised in 2006. The number of adoptive children increased in 2006. DSDW in Thailand accepted only a limited number of applications but cooperation with FFAC continued as before. Children that are given up for intercountry adoption from India are, as a rule, special-needs children. A couple of children are adopted every year via DCCW and FFC. Cooperation with Abba in South Africa continued in a positive atmosphere. The quota of dispatched applications increased threefold and more children arrived in Finland, as compared with the previous year. No new adoption contacts were established in 2006.

Close and frequent contacts with foreign adoption service agencies are an important part of Interpedia's adoption cooperation. Confidential and trustful relationships form the basis for good and functional adoption service. Regular contacts abroad are an important part of the operation of Interpedia's adoption service sector. Interpedia's representatives visited South Africa, India, Ethiopia, and Colombia in 2006. Adoption authorities from South Africa and China visited Finland.

Most of the work carried out by Interpedia's adoption service staff involves contacts with the client families. A total of 235 new clients registered as adoption applicants in 2006 (compared with 162 in 2005). This meant an increase of approx. 45% compared with the previous year. The appli-

cants need to be informed about the various steps in the adoption process, and the longer waiting time involved increase the need for contacts and support. Tighter criteria in the countries that give up children for adoption, and more demanding clients meant more work for Interpedia, compared with previous years. Acute crises during the adoption process also require more staff resources. Families who already have adopted a child were also given post-placement service which is one of the growing areas of adoption activities. Interpedia aims at developing its expertise also in this area.

The staff in the adoption programme participated in preparatory courses for future adoptive parents and met families in various spring and autumn events. As a new form of activity, we started information events *Could we become an adoptive family?* for couples and single applicants who were considering adoption. A total of nine (9) *Could we become an adoptive family?* events were arranged. One of them was intended for single applicants and one for Swedish-speaking Finns. Six events were held at Interpedia's office in Helsinki and one in Pietarsaari, Tampere, and Turku, respectively.

Adoptive families and applicants have responded to Interpedia's move to Helsinki in very positive terms. Personal meetings between the adoption service staff and families increased considerably in the latter part of 2006.

## Support Services for Adoption Applicants and Adoptive Families

In addition to statutory adoption service, the applicants and adoptive families had access to various support services, e.g. preparatory courses for future adoptive families, a network of contact persons, activities for children and adolescents, and culture groups. The adoption support service planner took care of these activities. The purpose of support services is to create as versatile a contact network as possible for adoption applicants and adoptive families since such a network is important during all the steps of the adoption process.

A total of 12 preparatory courses for future adoptive families were arranged in 2006. Approx. 200 adoption applicants participated in these courses. Compared with 2005, the number of participants increased about 30 per cent. The feedback from the participants was positive. They appreciated the visits by adoptive families, youth, and adoption service staff in the courses. The course leaders got excellent feedback. Interpedia's Board appointed 11 new course leaders in 2006. A two-day training course was arranged for the course leaders. The course took up the contents of the preparatory courses and developed various teaching meth-



ods. The objectives and principles of preparatory courses were updated as a result of group work by the course leaders, taking into account the applicants' wishes and needs.

The adoption service staff provides the contact details of families which suit the needs and situation of each applicant in question. There was no camp for children and adolescents in 2006, but a joint camp was planned for 2007 together with Kesälukioseura (in English: Summer high school association). Two (2) regional events were arranged in 2006 in the former Turku and Pori Province, and one (1) in the former Vaasa Province. The families were encouraged to participate in various events for adoptive families, e.g. country-specific meetings.

## Adoption Counsellors

The purpose of the adoption counsellors is to help and give advice for families who have adopted a child from abroad or who are waiting to adopt a child from abroad. In addition, they provide information for various professional groups on the special needs of adoptive children and families, and create a network of representatives of various professional groups who are specialists in intercountry adoptions. Interpedia is the coordinator of this activity that started as cooperation between the adoption service agencies in Finland. The steering committee convened six (6) times. The activity started in 1998, and in 2005, it was transferred to the category which is entitled to targeted operational aid from RAY (Finland's Slot Machine Association).

Ms Kerstin Rauma, adoption counsellor, worked full-time in 2006 and Ms Sanna Mäkipää, adoption counsellor, worked

part-time (about five hours a week). The support telephone of the adoption counsellors was contacted 370 times in 2006, which is considerably more than in 2005 (276 times). It was particularly the adoption applicants who increased their contacts to the adoption counsellors. In addition, the counsellors participated in several events for adoption applicants, adoptive families, and various professional groups.

## Other Activities Related to Intercountry Adoptions

Interpedia is a member of Nordic Adoption Council (NAC) and EURADOPT, a cooperation organization for European adoption agencies. Interpedia's representatives participated in the meetings of both these organizations in Spain and in Norway. We also started, together with Save the Children, the preparations for a NAC seminar that will be held in Finland in 2007.

There was good cooperation between the three adoption service organizations in Finland, viz. Interpedia, Save the Children, and Helsinki Social Welfare Board, and the organizations arranged joint meetings which took up e.g. the exchange of information related to the functioning of adoption contacts and the procedures related to the provision of adoption service.

Interpedia's representative took an active part also in the joint meetings of the adoption service agencies in Finland. Contacts with various Embassies also increased considerably in 2006.



# INFORMATION



The significance of electronic communication continued to grow in making Interpedia more widely known among the general public. The visual appearance of Interpedia's website was totally reshaped in early 2006. Special attention was paid on easy use and access of the website. New forms of services were also introduced in the website in 2006. For instance, the renewed website gives the meeting dates of the Finnish Adoption Board as well as the number of applications waiting to be handled. Information about adoption quota is also included in the website. At present, registration for preparatory courses for future adoptive parents etc. takes place only electronically by filling in a registration form in Interpedia's website. Anyone can also register as a sponsor by filling in an electronic sponsorship commitment form in the website. In addition, towards the end of 2006, it became possible to send electronic e-cards via Interpedia's website. E-cards are a means of, for instance, informing a friend about Interpedia's sponsorship programme. Members and sponsors were encouraged to send electronic Christmas cards and, at the same time, donate the funds reserved for ordinary Christmas cars to Los Pisingos's Sexual Awareness project or Maedot's School Lunch for Ethiopian Children project. The possibility of one-time donation was actively highlighted during the year.

Visitors to Interpedia's website seems stable, at approx. 3,000 - 4,000 visitors per month. The table below illustrates the numbers

of visitors each month. All in all, more than 80,000 people visited Interpedia's website last year, which is over 20,000 more than in 2005.

Almost 330 questions were received in the Question - Answer section of Interpedia's website - nearly all of them dealing with adoption. 312 questions merited a reply. A total of 46 information bulletins about Interpedia's activity were published on its website, in the section "Current events and topics", in 2006. Five press releases were sent to mass media. Newspaper/magazine articles as well as radio and TV programmes, mainly about adoptions, and with Interpedia's representatives present, made Interpedia more widely known among the general public.

The journal Interpedia came out four times in 2006, in accordance with the agreed schedule. The first issue focused,

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan	3946	7352	36221	118004	869.23 MB
Feb	3282	6465	29840	130036	937.63 MB
Mar	4048	7979	32766	156366	1.11 GB
Apr	3228	6311	25352	116412	884.18 MB
May	3330	6730	27305	126463	923.65 MB
Jun	2377	4759	17292	81067	612.99 MB
Jul	2346	4471	17925	79911	665.19 MB
Aug	3161	6881	25734	124311	981.72 MB
Sep	3259	7030	28513	153302	1.15 GB
Oct	3993	8517	38580	203363	1.56 GB
Nov	3733	7317	23921	135832	1.01 GB
Dec	3980	7279	26172	144167	1.19 GB
<b>Total</b>	<b>40683</b>	<b>81091</b>	<b>329621</b>	<b>1569234</b>	<b>11.76 GB</b>

Table1

as customary, on sponsorship and 4,000 copies were printed and sent to all sponsors, in addition to Interpedia's members. The other issues dealt with the following themes: 2/06 Travelling to fetch the child, 3/06 Travelling to find the roots, and 4/06 Adoption of siblings. In addition to the journal, all the members were sent two national information bulletins. "Events Calendar" on the website provided information about regional meetings for members and other events. Furthermore, everyone who has adopted a child via Interpedia over the years was sent Christmas greetings, including news about Interpedia.

In addition to member bulletins and journals, all members were sent a letter together with the membership fee, giving ten good reasons for becoming a sponsor. The members also received Interpedia's brochure on sponsorship. The traditional fund-raising campaign was carried out in the autumn, and the members were sent five Christmas cards made in Bangladesh. The attached letter informed the members about CORR the Jute Works - our cooperation partner - as well as about Interpedia's new sponsorship partner in South Africa. All information distributed to members, sponsors, and adoption applicants was written in Finnish and Swedish.

A new English brochure about Interpedia in general was published in 2006. The visual appearance of adoption information booklets was renewed and they were published in the A5 format. The front page shows the same picture drawn by Meeri Aaltonen as in the Interpedia caps and T-shirts manufactured in 2006. These caps and T-shirts have been on sale and they have also been given as presents e.g. to voluntary workers at Interpedia. In addition, new Interpedia pens and stickers that advertise sponsorship programmes were purchased in 2006.

Interpedia was present in several occasions organized for members, sponsors, adoption applicants, and families. A Lucia-Day Party was arranged in Interpedia's office in December for cooperation partners and interest groups. There is a plan to make this party an annual tradition.

MBE advertising agency from Lahti offered Interpedia the second time a Good Deed Bzz-campaign before Christmas, with the purpose of promoting donations for school lunches in Ethiopia. The campaign raised 2,403 euros and involved 223 Bzz-agents. A total of 2,565 Bzz-promotions were reported and the campaign has been summed up in a report.



# ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION



## Members

The number of members continued to grow, being 2,248 at the end of 2006 (compared with 2,055 on 31 December 2005). A total of 252 new members joined Interpedia in 2006 (compared with 227 in 2005). 60 members resigned at their own request.

## General Meetings

The spring general meeting was held at Varala Sports Institute in Tampere on 8 April, with 26 members present. The autumn meeting was also held in Tampere on 14 October, with 24 members present. The meetings discussed and decided on the issues prescribed by Interpedia's Articles of Association. Members' meetings were arranged in connection with the official General Meetings.

The spring meeting was a two-day event, highlighting the trip to fetch one's adoptive child and the trip to one's country of origin. Child psychiatrist and family therapist Sirkka-Liisa Tornainen, who is also an adoptive mother, gave a lecture on travelling to fetch the child, from the mental point of view. The programme also included a panel debate on "Travelling to one's country of origin - expectations and experiences", led by adoption counsellor Kerstin Rauma. Joonas Mikkola, a panel member and an adoptive teenager, reflected on his own experiences about his trip to his country of origin. Hupilainen Puppet Theatre presented a story about loneliness and friendship, called Kahvikupin rakkaus (The love of a coffee cup), and it was a nice break amidst other programme. Ms Marita Ferreira, the contact person of Abba Adoptions, our cooperation partner in South Africa, told about the trip to fetch one's adoptive child from the point of view of the contact person.

The adoption of a special-needs child or an older child was the theme of the autumn meeting. Antti and Leena Kivivalli, who are adoptive parents, told touchingly about the subject. Interpedia's consultant physician Dr Kari Lappi, who is a specialist of child psychiatry at HUS/HYKS University Hospital, gave a lecture on the subject. Genet Veikkolainen, who was adopted from Ethiopia to Rovaniemi when she was six years old, told her story.

## Board, Working Committee, Work Groups, and Member Activities

Mr Timo Byman from Anjalankoski was the chairman of Interpedia and of its Board, and Mrs Leena Kivivalli from Tampere was the vice-chairperson. The Board convened seven times and dealt with 126 articles in its minutes.

## Office

The average number of full-time employees in the office was 14 in 2006. This was an increase of two employees compared with 2005. A new post as an office secretary was established, in order to safeguard the smooth running of office routines and services in Swedish. Due to changes in the posts of the executive director and executive officers in development cooperation, the posts were filled with double occupants part of the year.

The office ADP hardware and software were replaced in October.

# ECONOMY

In 2006, Interpedia's gross income was 1,842,942.98 euros (compared with 1,620,845.11 euros in 2005). The gross expenditure was 1,755,221.44 euros (compared with 1,683,983.15 euros in 2005).

Sponsorship contributions and service fees paid by adoption applicants constitute the main sources for financing Interpedia's activities. Development cooperation support granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and donations by RAY (in English: Slot Machine Association) comprised 15.2% of Interpedia's total income. RAY's donation of 206,000 euros was used to cover some of the adoption costs. Unspent allowance for the adoption counsellor project, a total of 1,063.94 euros, was transferred to 2007. A total of 34,011.00 euros out of the development cooperation support granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was transferred to 2007.

The staff cost was 594,383.24 euros (compared with 517,408.61 euros in 2005), whereof the adoption counsellor project took up 39,095.34 euros. There was an increase of approx. 15% compared with the previous year, due to overlapping posts of the executive director and executive officers in development cooperation as well as a pay-raise of 10% in November 2005, because of Interpedia's moving to Helsinki.

The gross income includes a testamentary legacy of 145,000 euros and the profit of 114,966 euros after selling the Vaasa office.

The legacy was placed in Hilikka Äimälä Memorial Fund, and recorded under free reserves in the balance sheet.

No transfers to contingency reserves or post-placement reserves, in accordance with the budget, were carried out in 2006. The scholarship reserve and anniversary reserve were dissolved from free reserves, which improved the result with 15,431.03 euros. Ebba Östman Memorial Fund was transferred from tied to free reserves. Her testament does not specify any terms for the use of the funds.

Interpedia's operating income showed a deficit of 172,289.49 euros. The Board aims at balancing the operating income during the next two years.

