



Original Article

A Review on the Development of Global Ethic Project: A Study on The Global Ethic Foundation

Mohd Khairul Naim Che Nordin^{a*}

^a Department of 'Aqidah and Islamic Thought, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya

* Corresponding author, email; khairulnaim@um.edu.my

ABSTRACT

Global ethic is an idea that claims an existence of one basic morality shared among people regardless of their race and religion since the beginning of humanity. It is founded on treatment among people that is humane and fair. From this foundation, the idea is elaborated into some attributes and criteria that form the moral framework that is collectively named as global ethic. To spread the idea, some activities are done under the Global Ethic Projects. This paper will review on the development of an organization that is directly related to Global Ethic Projects which is The Global Ethic Foundation. It will also examine activities and programs held, and also scrutinize the long-term planning of the organization in order to introduce global ethic to the world. The discourse will then be concluded with a summary on the current position of global ethic.

Keywords: Global ethic; The Global Ethic Foundation; Global Ethic Projects; Inter-cultural and Inter-religious.

Introduction

Global ethic is elaborated as one basic morality that is integrated in all religions and ideologies. The initial idea on global ethic is introduced by Hans Küng¹ who describes it as “a basic consensus on binding values, irrevocable criteria and personal basic attitudes”.² According

¹ Prof. Hans Kung is professor emeritus at the University of Tubingen, Germany. He has taught at the Institute for Ecumenical Research, University of Tubingen and is currently honorary president of the Global Ethic Foundation. He is a scholar of theology and philosophy that are actively involved in inter-religious dialogue around the world. Before this, he was appointed as an official adviser to the Second Vatican Council by Pope John XXIII. However, his teaching degree has been revoked by the Vatican in 1979 because of his opposition to the doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope. He is also an individual who has played the role of preparing the draft 'Declaration toward a Global Ethic' during the second conference of Parliament of the World's Religions on 4 September 1993 in Chicago, USA. Hans Kung, *My Struggle for Freedom* (New York: Continuum, 2004) 85 and interview with Hans Kung, on 4th May 2012, Global Ethic Foundation, Tuebingen, German.

² Hans Kung, *A Global Ethic for Global Politics and Economics*(New York: Oxford University Press1998), 105.

to Küng, global ethic is not a new religion or a new global ideology or new set of teachings to replace ethical values that are readily exist, far less a uniform world religion beyond all existing religions; but he claimed that it is believed and practiced by people of different faiths and religions since the beginning of human civilization in the world. Two essential core of global ethic are humanity which is 'every human must be treated humanely' and the golden rule that is expressed as "treat others as you would like to be treated" or "do not treat others as you would not like to be treated".³

The concept of global ethic has taken the center stage of the world community and was discussed in a United Nations meeting and was made a declaration in the meeting of Parliament of the World's Religion in Chicago in 1993.⁴ To encourage global ethic projects, a foundation has been established to lead it. This article will review on the developments of global ethic projects and efforts done in advocating it globally. The article will specifically look at the development of an organization that is directly related to the global ethic project which is The Global Ethic Foundation. This article will also examine activities and programs held and scrutinize the long-term planning of the organization to introduce global ethic to the world. The discourse will be concluded with a summary on the current position of global ethic.

Founding History

The Global Ethic Foundation has been established by Count Karl Konrad von der Groeben (1918-2005), a German entrepreneur in 1995. The foundation was established after he was inspired by Global Responsibility; a book written by Hans Küng published in the 1990.⁵ He has contributed a large sum of money to disseminate the idea of global ethic using the newly founded organization.⁶ He believes that these ideas should be inculcated in people to be practiced in their life. The Global Ethic Foundation is based in Tübingen, Germany and there are other branches in other countries such as Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Brazil,

³ *Ibid.*, 110 and interview with Hans Kung, on 4th May 2012, (President of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

⁴ Karl-Josef Kuschel, "Parliament of the World's Religions 1893-1993," in *A Global Ethic: A Declaration of the Parliament of the World's Religions*, eds. Hans Kung and Karl-Josef Kuschel (New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group, 2006), 110; UN Commission for Global Governance, *Our Global Neighborhood: Report of the Commission on Global Governance* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 1995) and Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, *Declaration Toward a Global Ethic* (New York: Continuum Publishing, 1993). This declaration can be downloaded on the website of the Council of the World's Religions:

http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/_includes/FCKcontent/File/TowardsAGlobalEthic.pdf.

⁵ This book is the first work that describes the concept of global ethic. According to Hans Kung, the idea of a global ethic was born after he held a number of discussions and dialogue in the 1980s with the clergy of various faiths, an expert in religious studies and humanist. Some of the unrest that occurred at that time led him to propose the role of religion in society by introducing his thesis that 'no peace among the nations without peace among the religions'. This idea was later compiled into a book with the title "*Projek Weltethos*" (*Global Responsibility: In Search of a New World Ethic*). Interview with Hans Kung, on 4th May 2012, (President of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German; The Global Ethic Foundation (n.d), *Global Ethic Foundation*, (n.p.p): (n.p), 4; History of the Foundation, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-10-stiftung/11a-die-stiftung.php>.

⁶ *Ibid.*

Colombia, Mexico and China.⁷ In terms of organization, the foundation is lead by Hans Küng as the President and Karl-Josef Kuschel as the Vice President. It employs a board of advisers with the role to ease transmission of ideas in discussing relevant activities of the foundation and funding on organizing activities to spread global ethic.⁸

The Objectives of The Global Ethic Foundation

The Global Ethic Foundation has set three objectives of its founding. The objectives are also joined with strategies to achieve those objectives which are⁹:

- a. To carry out and encourage inter-cultural and inter-religious research:

This aim will be achieved in particular through theological and other research into the foundations of the religions, especially through the production and promotion of academic publications (books and articles) in the interest of inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-denominational understanding.

- b. To stimulate and implement inter-cultural and inter-religious education:

This aim will be achieved in particular through:

- i. Teaching and lecturing to disseminate the results of the research sponsored by the Foundation, especially the ideas relating to a fundamental ethic common to all men and women, a global ethic. This will be done in churches, colleges, academies, schools, universities, associations and interested groups of every kind, both national and international;
- ii. Further education of those interested, through conferences, lectures, seminars or workshops aimed at deepening the themes of a global ethic;
- iii. Publicity to promote a global ethic through the media (newspaper articles, interviews, radio and television programs).

- c. To enable and support such inter-cultural and inter-religious encounter necessary for research and education:

This aim will be achieved in particular through:

- i. The stimulation and encouragement of initiatives in society, politics and culture in the interest of understanding between peoples (e.g. confidence-building measures between the religions);
- ii. Promotion of encounters between people of different cultures and religions (colloquia, study trips and congresses); the development of the existing network of inter-cultural and inter-religious relations to further a global ethic;
- iii. Access to key documents and literature with the help of modern communication technologies.

Therefore, the three objectives outlined by the Global Ethic Foundation are to execute researches on global ethic, promote the results of the researches via various activities and

⁷ The Global Ethic Foundation Worldwide, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-10-stiftung/14-international.php>.

⁸ Organization of the Foundation, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-10-stiftung/12-organisation.php>.

⁹ The Global Ethic Foundation, *Global Ethic Foundation*, 5 and Aims of the Foundation, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-10-stiftung/11-die-stiftung.php>.

organize encounter between groups of different cultures and religions. All these objectives are functions to provide understanding on global ethic ideas and inculcate understanding among different communities via shared ethic medium. These three objectives are inline with the foundation tagline which is "For Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Research, Education and Encounter".¹⁰

Programs and Activities

Thus, the two main efforts that are implemented by the foundation is via organizing activities and research and publication projects. In terms of activities, there are a lot of projects previously organized by The Global Ethic Foundation. It can be divided into seven different domains which are religions, politics, economy, education, music and sports. This seven aspects function as a medium that is used by the foundation to spread its ideas. Therefore, some activities are organized based on the seven aspects.¹¹

a. Religion

In terms of religion, there are at least three activities held by the foundation which are publication of various religious books authored by the foundation's own committee members, exhibition, multimedia projects, and also participation in religious programs. Publication of books on various religions, inter-religious dialogues and inter-cultural dialogues are among the first few efforts done by supporters of global ethic in promoting its ideas. In this context, the committee members are directly involved in writing efforts including Hans Küng as the President, Stephan Schlenzog as the Secretary-General, Karl-Josef Kuschel as Academic Advisor and many others. Some books are translated to other languages to ensure that the idea can be spread to various targeted groups.

Hans Küng has previously written few books on religions and the importance of global ethic as a basis that connects the various religions. Among his important publications are three books on three main religions of the world which are *Judaism*¹², *Christianity*¹³ and *Islam*¹⁴. Karl-Josef Kuschel has also written some books on religions disciplines such as *Abraham*¹⁵ and *Juden, Christen, Muslime*¹⁶. There are other writing on religions and its relations to global ethic as written by Schlenzog and Bauschke on Hinduism¹⁷, comparative religion¹⁸ and *Abrahamic Religion*¹⁹. In this context, Global Ethic Foundation did not publish the works, but serves to

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 6-9; Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

¹² HansKung, *Judaism: Between Yesterday and Tomorrow* (New York: Continuum, 1995).

¹³ Hans Kung, *Christianity: Its Essence and History* (London: SCM Press, 1995).

¹⁴ Hans Kung, *Islam: Past, Present and Future* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2007).

¹⁵ Karl JosefKuschel, *Abraham: Sign of Hope for Jews, Christians and Muslims* (New York: Continuum, 1995).

¹⁶ Karl JosefKuschel, *Juden, Christen, Muslime: Herkunft und Zukunft*(Dusseldorf: Patmos, 2007).

¹⁷ Stephan Schlenzog, *Der Hinduismus* (Munich: Piper, 2006).

¹⁸ Stephan Schlenzog, *Die Weltreligionen für die Westentasche* (Munich: Piper, 2008).

¹⁹ Martin Bauschke, *Der Spiegel des Propheten: Abraham im Koran und im Islam* (Frankfurt: Lembeck, 2008).

spread them.²⁰ However, the books are mainly written in German and English. Limitation in language medium may limit the spread of global ethic ideas to communities which are not using these two languages. Other than that, these books are mainly circulated in certain places, specifically in Europe and are limited in other places.

Moreover, the Global Ethic Foundation also made an initiative by implementing a multimedia project that is displayed in global ethic exhibitions. This multimedia project is named as “Tracing the Way”, which is a seven-series documentary titled “On the Trail of the World Religions”. The documentary is on tracking world religions. Additionally a picture book on the documentary and CD-ROM was also published as additional materials.²¹ The “World Religions – Universal Peace – Global Ethic” exhibition has been started since 2000 and presented in various languages in many places.²² This is seen as one of the foundation efforts to introduce global ethic to the public and not only limited to academicians, politicians and religious leaders. Some of the foundation leaders are also actively participating in inter-religious and inter-cultural seminar and debates. Hans Küng himself is consistently active as a presenter in many inter-religious and inter-cultural seminars throughout the world.²³

b. Politics

Furthermore, the Global Ethic Foundation also uses political mediums to spread its ideas. Besides, politics has been a focus and main agenda in the context of global ethic. Therefore, on that basis, the foundation organizes many activities on political aspects. These activities can be divided into two aspects which is; (1) via United Nations as the main world body and; (2) political symposium and Global Ethic Lectures which is self-organized by the foundation.

The Global Ethic Foundation has played an important role in the United Nations via its President, Hans Küng by outlining resolutions for a declaration on “United Nations Year of Dialogue between the Civilizations” in United Nations meeting in 2001.²⁴ It was based on the

²⁰ Global Ethics and Religions, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-10-stiftung/11a-die-stiftung.php>.

²¹ Project “Tracing the Way”, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-300projekte/31b-100-spurensuche.php>, 9 November 2010.

²² This exhibition consists of twelve panels. Six of the panels are about the Hindu religion, Chinese Religion, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam; two panels on Golden Rule and Principle of Humanity and four panels on four basic ethical standards. *Ibid.* This exhibition was also organized at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, organized jointly by the Global Ethic Foundation, USM, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and the Malaysian Interfaith Network. The Penang Global Ethic Project was organized as a joint venture project. They organized a series of lectures, forums and exhibitions. Practical Projects and Activities, The Penang Global Ethic Project in Malaysia, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-30b-projekte/32-0108-penang.php>.

²³ There were several important programs which were attended by Hans Küng and members of the committee in an effort to spread the ideas of global ethic outside of Europe, such as the Chinese Academy for the Social Sciences, Beijing, 2nd International Conference on Sinology, Renmin University, Beijing, Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University (Beida) and Centre for World Religions and a Global Ethic, Peking, China. In addition, they also held a program in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Malaysia and some other activities in Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Columbia, Mexico and Brazil. Draft of the book ‘A Global Ethic Handbook’; Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, Germany.

²⁴ Global Ethic at the United Nations, Global Ethic and Politics, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-20-aktivitaeten/21-200-politik.php>.

suggestions by Iranian President Khatami in 1998 who proposed inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue and also to hold a Year of Dialogue on United Nations level. Furthermore, the world was recovering from the shock of the New York September 11th 2001 tragedy, and that further force the world body to raise the issue of civilizational and cultural clashes as an important topic to be understood by the world community.²⁵ Hans Küng has been given the responsibility to identify what is said as 'new paradigm principles in international relations' by the United Nations' Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The results of the consensus have seen the principles to be devised via dialogues and understanding on shared moral values or briefly, global ethic.²⁶ The 56th United Nations meeting has discussed the above efforts and Hans Küng has been given the honor to read the statement as a result of the discussions. The report is then published under the title "Crossing the Divide. Dialogue among Civilizations". As a result of the report, United Nations General Assembly on the 9th November 2001 has ratified six-resolution article entitled "Global Agenda for the Dialogue among Civilizations".²⁷ The second article in the dialogue objective directly considers the role of global ethic in civilizational dialogue.²⁸

In line with the achievements of the resolution, the foundation took an initiative to organize "World Religions - Universal Peace - Global Ethic" exhibition in the United Nations headquarters in New York.²⁹ This has been the greatest achievement by the foundation to spread global ethic on the international level. The United Nations resolutions in November 2001 and the "Crossing the Divide" report has been deemed as global ethic achievement on the highest level in international politics.³⁰

Other than that, efforts to spread global ethic were done via symposium and series of lectures. For example, 'A new Paradigm for International Relations? Ethical Challenges for the Shaping of Global Politics symposium', held in 2002 and organized in Tübingen, Germany was directly related to political issues.³¹ Additionally, the foundation also organized a series of lectures, or 'Global Ethic Lectures'. The invited speakers will give their own perspective on how global ethic is or can be applied in their own field. Among them are politicians such as Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of Britain and Helmut Schmidt, former German Chancellor, leaders of international organizations such as Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The selection of international level speakers can be seen as one of the efforts by the foundation to promote global ethic globally.³² They may represent certain organizations but nevertheless, it is enough to

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ To refer the resolution that has been outlined, please refer to: <http://www.weltethos.org/1-pdf/20-aktivitaeten/deu/politik/UN-resolution-2001.pdf>.

²⁸ In the second article, there are seven objectives outlined on the dialogue between civilizations and dialogue between religions. All of these objectives related to global ethic, whether directly or indirectly.

²⁹ Global Ethic at the United Nations, Global Ethic and Politics, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-20-aktivitaeten/21-200-politik.php>.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Among others who are invited to give a lecture is Horst Köhler, former German president, Nobel peace laureates Shirin Ebadi, Jacques Rogge President of the International Olympic Committee, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nobel peace laureates, and Stephen K. Green, former chairman of HSBC Holdings. The Global Ethic Foundation, *Global Ethic Foundation*, 9-10.

project that the global ethic idea is greatly supported globally since they are dominant in the international level.

c. Economy

The Global Ethic Foundation has also spread its effort based on the economic theme. Economy has been seen to be influential and affects majority of the world community. Economic scandals and crises in the 1990's and years afterwards has compelled the foundation to focus on the discussions on ethical framework of the global economy. Therefore economy is one of the important topics covered by global ethic. There are two efforts to spread global ethic in terms of economy. The first effort has been performed by Hans Küng himself by publishing a book entitled *A Global Ethic for Global Politics and Economics*. This book describes the need of global ethic based economy to the world and the need to leave economic system that is not fair and being monopolized by certain parties. Therefore, it is the first results that open global ethic to discussions in terms of its role to the world's economy.³³

The second effort is the formation of an economic manifesto by the foundation. The "Global Economic Ethic - Consequences for Global Businesses" manifesto outlined some global economic ethics as an essential component in the field of economic activities.³⁴ It does not stop there, but it has been uplifted to the international level. In the year 2009, this manifesto has been presented in the United Nations headquarters with the cooperation of UN Global Compact, Swiss Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Novartis Foundation. It has been ratified by influential individuals from various fields and backgrounds.³⁵ This manifesto is then presented and discussed in many international level events such as in Peking University, China, in Novartis Foundation annual symposium in Basel, in Parliament of World's Religion in Melbourne in 2009, and in UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit in New York on 23rd to 25th June 2010.³⁶ The Global Ethic Foundation has also created a website for the promotion and spread of this manifesto.³⁷

d. Education

Global Ethic Foundation has also focused its efforts to spread its ideas via education especially in schools. This can be divided to two forms, which are; (1) unofficial educational means for instance, in the organizing of competitions in schools, and; (2) official educational

³³ Global Ethic and Economy, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-20-aktivaeten/21-300-wirtschaft.php>.

³⁴ This manifesto sets out two principles and thirteen articles that must be implemented by all parties involved in economic activities at all levels. The first is to respect humanitarian principles, namely respect for the dignity of every human being. Therefore in economic ethics, dignity of human beings is the highest goals. The second principle is to respect the basic values for global economic activity, namely respect for life and no violence, justice and solidarity, honesty and tolerance and mutual respect for fellow human beings. Global Ethic Foundation, *Global Economic Ethic - Consequences for Global Businesses* (Tubingen: Global Ethic Foundation, 2009), 4-10.

³⁵ Among leaders who signed this manifesto is James Wolfensohn, former World Bank president, Daniel Vasella, CEO of Novartis, Juan Somavia, Director International Labour Organization (ILO), Prince Al-Hassan bin Talal of Jordan (Augsburg Peace Prize Laureate 2008) and Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize laureate from South Africa. *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ The website provides the text of the manifesto, the list of contributors as well as provide parts to invite anyone who is interested in this project as a signatory or adherent to the manifesto. It can be accessed at www.globaleconomicethic.org.

means for example by training teachers on global ethic. For the Global Ethic Foundation, explanation on the importance of global ethic should start as early as possible. This is because early education, especially in terms of relationships will influence one's attitude and character when they become adults. Family, pre-school education and schools are among important locations to children in learning ethical behavior. Therefore, the foundation focuses on schools by cooperating with the school's administration to spread global ethic through educational medium.³⁸

Global Ethic Foundation also outlined two essential pillars in education framework which are communication of ethical competence and communication of intercultural competence. Based on these two educational objectives, the foundation encourages fundamental research and investigation on communication methods that is best suited for the targeted groups.³⁹

Among the achievements by the foundation in terms of education is advocacy to teachers to then actively participate in the works of the foundation as volunteers. These teachers are involved in seminars and global ethic teaching courses, gave lectures in schools and churches, organized projects for children and teenagers and helping the school in preparing ethical codes for the schools.⁴⁰ Furthermore, there are other school projects which are organized by the foundation such as inter-classroom competition that focuses on classroom developments in terms of inter-religion or communication of global ethic values. There are also global ethic-themed creative learning projects competition that is held between schools (WASP - World Ethic School Prize).⁴¹

In the context of direct and official education, the foundation has prepared a collection of teaching materials on global ethic in German language which is "*Weltethos in der Schule*" (Global Ethic in the schools).⁴² Also, teaching-training for teachers are also being developed, especially in the field of inter-religion. This training is based on materials as mentioned above.⁴³ With the training, the foundation hoped that global ethic can be spread in schools systematically and according to the perspective that they have outlined. There are two efforts that have been implemented in higher education levels. Firstly is the cooperation between the foundation and Pedagogical College of Central Switzerland in Switzerland to open an institute called as Global Ethic Competence Centre. This institute functions to develop global ethic themes for the use of the training for teachers and materials used in teaching.⁴⁴

Other than that, Global Ethic Foundation in China with the cooperation of Sino-Christian Studies has translated global ethic teaching material to Chinese language for teachers in Hong

³⁸ Activities of the Foundation, Global Ethic in the School, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 8, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-20-aktivitaeten/21-400-schule.php>; Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

Kong. These teaching materials are also integrated into curriculum and student text books. In the year 2011, global ethic text book has been published for the usage in China.⁴⁵

The foundation has also successfully established an institute called as Global Ethic Institute based on its president's ideas, Hans Küng. It was given birth from the cooperation of the foundation with the University of Tübingen, Germany. The institute was established after the decision in the senate meeting between the university and the foundation on May 2011 and it started working in the beginning of summer semester of 2012.⁴⁶ The institute can be said to be having a special structure as it is managed under two organizations, a foundation and a university. Therefore, it is not a free organization but it is having a close relation with the foundation.⁴⁷

The institute is funded by *Karl Schlecht Gemein nützige Stiftung* (KSG), a non-profit based organization. Prof. Dr. Dierk Claus Meier act as the director of this institute and supported by Dr. Stephen Schlenso (Secretary-General, Global Ethics Foundation) as the manager. The objective of the institute is to encourage scientific and academic research and teaching on global ethic to the public. These include a wide range of disciplines such as world religions, international politics, global economy, education and culture. However, at the moment it is focusing on global economy.⁴⁸

Programs that were organized ranges from classes and seminars. It also directly involved in devising learning programs for various courses.⁴⁹ Up until now, it is only opened to university students, but the institute hoped to organize programs that target the local communities.⁵⁰ Among the organized seminars are 'Professional ethics and attitude', 'Ethical decision-making - ethical dilemmas', 'Intercultural competence – Hinduism' and 'Business Ethics Case Studies'.⁵¹

If previously the Global Ethic Foundation is more focused on education in schools, with the establishment of this institute, efforts are more likely to be focused on higher education level through academic research and absorption of global ethic ideas in various university courses. This will directly bring global ethic issues that previously were spread to general public to the academics. A little study can be done on the institute as it is recently established. However, the institute is indeed having a greater role to ensure that global ethic ideas are relevant in the future through rigorous researches and educate the students who undergone the university courses.

⁴⁵ Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

⁴⁶ Global Ethic Institute, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-60-we-institut/61-002-we-institut-presse.php>, 5 Januari 2011.

⁴⁷ Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ Global Ethic Institute, website of The Global Ethic Institute, reached on September 10, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-60-we-institut/61-002-we-institut-presse.php>.

⁵⁰ Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

⁵¹ Studium Sommer semester, Weltethos-Institut, website of The Global Ethic Institute, reached on September 18, 2013, <http://www.weltethos-institut.org/index.php?id=38>.

e. Sports and Music

The Global Ethic Foundation has also spread the ideas of global ethic by the means of musical and sports activities. These two aspects are prioritized because they are both closely related to the daily livings of the people. In music, the foundation has formed religions musical that was produced from religious text provided by Hans Küng. Global ethic themes were also integrated in the musicals and have been made as musical tunes.⁵² It has been presented to the world in the fall of 2011 that involves a large children choir group and *Philharmoniker Berlin*, a symphony orchestra group.⁵³ For the Global Ethic Foundation, this project is the first effort to translate religions to musicals. It is targeted to the public using a medium that is close to them which is music. Another choir and orchestra performance has been held in June 2012 in Birmingham for the London Festival 2012 that was organized in accordance to the London Olympics. The choir lyrics combined excerpts from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism religious texts was arranged by Hans Küng.⁵⁴

In sports, the Global Ethic Foundation has led the global ethic concept through lectures on sports, for example a lecture by Hans Küng in the German Protestant Church Conference in Hannover on May 2005 entitled "Global Sports and Global Ethic". The global ethic and sports lecture is deemed as important because it was done in conjunction with the World Cup 2006 in Germany.⁵⁵ Besides, the foundation also invited Dr. Jacques Rogge, the President of International Committee to deliver the sixth Global Ethic Lecture in 2006 with the same title which is "Global Sports and Global Ethic".⁵⁶ In sports, the foundation is still focusing in academic aspects from the lecture series held. The foundations is yet to organize its own, or directly involved in any sporting events.

f. Research and Publication

In addition to the efforts mentioned above, the Global Ethic Foundation also focuses greatly in spreading its ideas via research and publications. It greatly supports external scholars who are prepared to learn and spread any global ethic themed researches. Research grant is allocated to fund doctorate candidates, offer financial help or as a stipend for research projects, research visits and others.⁵⁷ Besides that, a number of symposiums and academic seminars were organized every year by the foundation⁵⁸.

⁵² Global Ethic and Music, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 10, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-20-aktivitaeten/27-000-musik.php>.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ Jonathan Harvey, A Vision in Music: Weltethos, London 2012 Festival Opening Concert; [Anthony Tommasini](#), *Something We Can All Agree On: Jonathan Harvey's 'Weltethos' in England*, The New York Times, reached on 22nd June 2012, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/23/arts/music/jonathan-harveys-weltethos-in-england.html>,

⁵⁵ Global Ethic and Sport, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 10, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-20-aktivitaeten/28-000-sport.php>.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ Three Year Report of the Global Ethic Foundation, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 10, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/dat-english/09-3-year-report.htm>.

⁵⁸ Among which may be mentioned here is like the Symposium '*Globale Unternehmen – globales Ethos*' [Global Companies – Global Ethic], in Baden-Baden in 2001 (involving economists and managers of international companies); Symposium '*Einneues Paradigma der internationalen Beziehungen*' [A New Paradigm for International Relationships] in Tübingen in 2002 (involving historians, political scientists and researchers in the field of security); Symposium '*Genese der Moral*' [The Genesis of Morality] in

Moreover, global ethics are also spread via publications to communicate the ideas. It is authored by the foundation committee members and supporters of global ethic that are largely made of people from various academic backgrounds. Publications on global ethic explained the idea via various mediums such as religion, politics, economy, philosophy, science and education.⁵⁹

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are three initiatives executed by the foundation which are research, education and encounter with target groups. Among these three undertakings, education is the core of the duties of the foundation.⁶⁰ The targeted group varies from country leaders and academicians to general public, university students and school pupils. There are various inter-religious researches and activities; however, the planned and implemented projects are recognized as ethics projects and not religions projects. This is due to for Global Ethic Foundation what has to be focused on is the search of common points that can open doors to build inter-religious and inter-cultural understanding and not just focused on their differences.⁶¹ Therefore, the foundation does not focused their efforts on doctrine and theological discussions, but rather on more 'practical' aspects, that serves to discuss and solve world's current issues. Thus, planned and implemented activities by the foundation must be related to the problems, issues and current realities (economy, culture, environment, politics and others) and it must be able to be practiced in human lives.⁶²

Other than that, the foundation is seemed to be successful in spreading global ethic in some aspects, especially in politics and education. Global ethic has reached international level as it was discussed among influential international bodies. Still, this impact is seen as being partial as it only encompasses several locations. Global ethic may be successfully spread in the Europe, especially within countries with branches of The Global Ethic Foundation. There is no coverage of the idea in other countries, especially in Asia. This is because; most of the activities are concentrated in the same locations. The foundation was mostly active during the initial period following its establishment; however, its activities are starting to decline nowadays. But the new attempt in forming the Global Ethics Institute in one of higher institution in Germany is seen to be an effort that can hugely contribute and maintain its purpose of spreading ideas of global ethic especially in education.

Tübingen in 2006 (involving theologians, philosophers and biologists); Symposium 'Science and Religion' in Tübingen in 2006 (involving theologians and those specializing in science); Symposium 'Weltreligionen als Faktoren der Weltpolitik' [World Religions as Factors for World Politics] in Tübingen in 2007 (involving academics from various religious and members of Inter Action Council of Former Heads of State and Government); and symposium 'Global Ethic, Law and Policy' in Washington in 2011 (involving international legal experts, legal scholars, scholars of political science and ethics). Draft book 'A Global Ethic Handbook'.

⁵⁹ Literature, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 10, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-40-literatur/42-weltethos-literatur.php#philosophie>.

⁶⁰ Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

⁶¹ FAQ about the Global Ethic Project, website of The Global Ethic Foundation, reached on September 10, 2013, <http://www.weltethos.org/1-pdf/10-stiftung/eng/FAQ-eng.pdf>.

⁶² Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tübingen, German.

References

- Bauschke, Martin. *Der Spiegel des Propheten: Abraham im Koran und im Islam*. Frankfurt: Lembeck, 2008.
- Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. *Declaration toward a Global Ethic*. New York: Continuum Publishing, 1993.
- Global Ethic Foundation. *Global Economic Ethic - Consequences for Global Businesses*. Tubingen: Global Ethic Foundation, 2009.
- Jonathan Harvey. A Vision in Music: Weltethos program's book, London 2012 Festival Opening Concert.
- Küng, Hans. *A Global Ethic for Global Politics and Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Küng, Hans. *Judaism: Between Yesterday and Tomorrow*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- Küng, Hans. *Christianity: Its Essence and History*. London: SCM Press, 1995.
- Küng, Hans. *Islam: Past, Present and Future*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2007.
- Kuschel, Karl-Josef. "Parliament of the World's Religions 1893-1993." In *A Global Ethic: A Declaration of the Parliament of the World's Religions*, eds. Hans Küng and Karl-Josef Kuschel. New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group, 2006.
- Kuschel, Karl-Josef. *Abraham: Sign of Hope for Jews, Christians and Muslims*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- Kuschel, Karl-Josef. *Juden, Christen, Muslime: Herkunft und Zukunft*. Dusseldorf: Patmos, 2007.
- Schlensoeg, Stephan. *Der Hinduismus*. Munich: Piper, 2006.
- Schlensoeg, Stephan. *Die Weltreligionen für die Westentasche*. Munich: Piper, 2008.
- The Global Ethic Foundation. *Global Ethic Foundation*, (n.p.p): (n.p), n.d.
- UN Commission for Global Governance. *Our Global Neighborhood: Report of the Commission on Global Governance*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Interview with Hans Kung, on 4th May 2012, (President of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tubingen, German.
- Interview with Guenther Gebhardt, 26th April 2012, (coordinator of The Global Ethic Foundation), Tubingen, German.
- Draft 'A Global Ethic Handbook'. (n.p.p): (n.p), n.d.

Websites

- Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>
- Global Ethic Foundation, <http://www.weltethos.org> dan <http://www.globaleconomicethic.org>.
- Global Ethic Institute, <http://www.weltethos.org/data-en/c-60-we-institut/61-002-we-institut-presse.php>

[Anthony Tommasini](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/23/arts/music/jonathan-harveys-weltethos-in-england.html), Something We Can All Agree On: Jonathan Harvey's 'Weltethos' in England, The New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/23/arts/music/jonathan-harveys-weltethos-in-england.html>.