

this includes bringing humanity into right relationship with the earth. It was felt that the lenses of governance and corporate accountability should be explored more as factors and agents affecting the right relationship between humans and the commons and access to the means of subsistence/life.

Over the coming year QIAP will continue its discernment process by exploring governance and corporate accountability issues as they relate to the commons through research and dialogues. Like

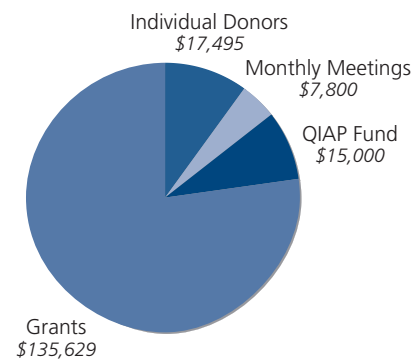
generations of Quakers who have gone before us, and who work with us, we believe that transformative change within entrenched power structures is possible, that the roots of injustice can be exposed and addressed. We are seeking ways of making the peace testimony relevant to economic policy and behaviour by advancing the economics of the common good based on a right relationship between humans and the earth.

**Peace is a necessity for an equal society in which people have control over much of their lives.**

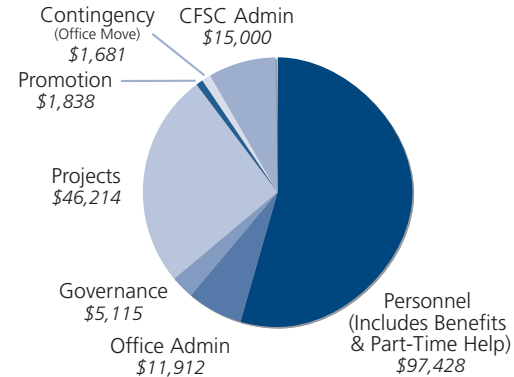
## Financial Report 2006-07

QIAP is funded by Canadian Quakers, groups and individuals, and grants from foundations and governments for specific projects. QIAP is under the care of the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC). Funds for QIAP are raised separately from CFSC. Audited financial statements are available through CFSC.

### Revenue \$175,924.00



### Expenditures \$179,188.00



QIAP has one full time staff person and, this past year, a full time assistant. Our committee members, and other Friends, contribute many hours of volunteer work that are not reflected in the financial statement. To fulfill our work plan in the coming year we must raise **\$75,500 in undesignated donations. To give please see enclosed donor form.** Support from American donors is facilitated through co-operation with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).

*We are deeply grateful to individual donors and Friends' Meetings who make our work possible through in-kind and financial donations. We also thank the following organizations for their support:*

- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (DGIS)
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), Geneva
- UK Department For International Development (DfID)

# QIAP Annual Report & Appeal 2007



*Peace is not so much the absence of war but the presence of justice.*

*Peace is a commitment to the future.*

*Peace is a necessity for an equal society in which people have control over much of their own lives.*

- Ursula Franklin, *The Ursula Franklin Reader: Pacifism as a Map* (2006)

## Peace is a presence of justice...

The Quaker International Affairs Programme (QIAP) in Ottawa seeks to address inequity and injustice created in international policy making processes by using a facilitative methodology that brings information and various perspectives to decision makers, along with opportunities for informal and off-the-record dialogue. Providing a space for informal exploratory conversations on difficult issues with an equal footing enhances the opportunities for sharing information, discovering mutual interests, finding common ground or creative solutions that can transform conflict into productive, equitable collaboration.

Since its launch in 2001, QIAP has worked on intellectual property (IP) issues as they relate to genetic resources, food security, biodiversity, traditional knowledge, trade and development. IP is a generic term used to refer to a group of legal regimes (i.e., patents, trademarks and copyright). The different regimes provide holders with legal protection to exclude others from making, using, importing and selling an invention; in essence, providing holders with a monopoly privilege on a product or process. New global rules on IP are being extended from inanimate objects into the area of living organisms such as microorganisms, seeds and plants. New rules on IP have become a key ingredient in controlling markets and influencing the distributions of wealth and power.



*Cleaning seeds, Ethiopian seed bank, Nov. 2006*

IP issues in relation to biodiversity have not only been some of the most contentious issues in many negotiations but shaped their outcome and led to a growing concern about their impacts on many aspects of life from food to health. From our initial focus on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) at the World Trade Organization (WTO), we followed the expansion of IP in bilateral and regional trade agreements and at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Work over the past year focused on how these rules shaped the outcome and ongoing negotiations at the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Photo courtesy: Geoff Tansley

# Programme Highlights 2006-07

- Animal genetics resources contribute to the livelihood of an estimated 70% of the rural poor in the world. They are an essential component of biodiversity and of sustainable production systems for food and agriculture. At the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held at UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy in June 2007, much of the focus was on animal genetic resources in preparation for an international technical conference to be held in Interlaken, Switzerland in September 2007.

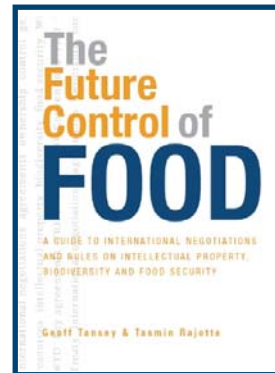
QIAP staff and two experts attended the meeting and worked quietly behind the scenes with delegates and civil society organizations to raise awareness about problematic text on IP that was being proposed in the draft Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources. The draft text could be interpreted, for instance, as 'requiring' all countries to grant patents on animals thereby ignoring the possibility and practice, admitted under the TRIPS Agreement at the WTO, of excluding animals from patentability. At the end of the meeting, there was no agreement on the text and it was forwarded to the Interlaken meeting for further negotiations. QIAP attended the Interlaken meeting in September and continued to work with various stakeholders. The problematic text was completely dropped from the Interlaken Declaration and the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources. This maintains the flexibilities countries have for safeguarding the future of animal genetic resources.

- In addition to the meetings on Animal Genetic Diversity in Rome and Interlaken, QIAP attended and worked with delegates and civil society organizations at a number of other meetings including: the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore in Geneva; CBD meetings in Montreal; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Body for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at the FAO in Rome.

- International negotiations on the conservation, management, ownership, control and exchange of genetic resources have developed piecemeal in different forums leading to a bewildering environment for those who participate in policy making. During the past year and a half QIAP has been working on a book *The Future Control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity and Food Security*. The book is, in part, a response to concerns negotiators in various multilateral negotiations raised about the need for such a guide as well as an observation that negotiators or groups working in one area were often unaware, and sometime undermining what was happening elsewhere that we encountered in our work. In part, it is also a response to food security being the more neglected area by many governments and civil society groups compared with the impact of IP on access to medicines and knowledge.

The book is a wide-ranging guide to the key issues of IP and ownership, genetics, biodiversity, and food security. Proceeding from an introduction and overview of the issues, the core chapters cover negotiations and instruments in the WTO, CBD, FAO, WIPO and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants and various other international bodies. The final part discusses the responses of civil society groups to the changing global rules, how these changes affect the direction of research and development, the nature of global negotiation processes and various alternative futures.

The development of the book has been a long process in which we have sought feedback throughout. This process involved: many one-on-one consultations and discussions with people involved with food, agriculture, biodiversity and IP issues from a variety of backgrounds, including staff in a range of international organizations; dialogues at different states of the book; a very



broad peer review process; and many revisions by the various contributors.

Earthscan in the UK is publishing the book and it should be available by January 2008. Arrangements are being made with the publishers at the University of British Columbia for distribution in Canada. IDRC will be producing an electronic version that will be available on their website in 2008. Information about the book can be found on UBC's website at: [www.ubcpublishing.ca](http://www.ubcpublishing.ca)

- QIAP also published an occasional paper on the "Key Issues for the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity & the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" which can be found on our website at: [http://www.qiap.ca/pages/documents/OP2-Final\\_000.pdf](http://www.qiap.ca/pages/documents/OP2-Final_000.pdf)

## Peace is a commitment to the future...

As our work on addressing inequity and injustice created in international policy making on IP has evolved over the past six years, we have recognized, that the nature of the work was changing. This past year the QIAP committee was called to re-visit and discern its next area of programmatic focus.

As part of the discernment process QIAP attended the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya and a workshop 'Quaker Conversations on the Environment' organized by Quaker Peace and Social Witness at Woodbrooke College in Birmingham, UK. We also engaged in a series of consultations and dialogues with Quakers and non-Quaker and gathered a wealth of perspectives on looming concerns and threats.

In making sense of all of the information gathered at a two and a half day QIAP committee meeting, we began to see a broadly shared concern for 'the commons'. The Tomales Bay Institute describes the commons as "... creations of nature and society that we inherit jointly and freely, and hold in trust for future generations. ... and should pass on, undiminished, to our heirs." Through a number

- Formal and informal dialogues were held on various versions of the draft chapters for the book. One was at the University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK and was co-sponsored with their Centre for Rural Economy, one in Ottawa at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and one at the Quaker House in Geneva with support from the Quaker United Nations Office. Off-the-record dialogues were held between negotiators and secretariat staff of various international bodies to discuss the state of negotiations on genetic resources, in particular, at the CBD as it embarks upon negotiations for an international regime on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources.



QIAP Committee, Sept. 2007, Ottawa Meeting House

of processes such as war, the constant need for economic growth and increasing privatization, many people are losing their access to the means of subsistence, or life.

At the QIAPC meeting, we identified our concern that there is a moral imperative to ensure that the commons (for example, air, land, food, water) continue to provide the means of subsistence, or life, for all. Our sense is that major systemic change is needed in order to bring this about and

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