

Five Talents Wins Sustain Award 2010

Five Talents is pleased to announce its latest achievement: the International Prize for Global Citizenship, awarded by Sustain Magazine on 2nd March 2010.

Sustain magazine is the only dedicated UK magazine for Sustainability, Business and the Built Environment. The magazine targets key leaders and readers in both public and private sectors in order to encourage and promote sustainability throughout all forms of development.



The awards ceremony, held in The Great Hall at Chelsea Football Club, brought together a diverse crowd of architects, engineers, housing developers and consultants among other leading organizations, all working toward creating a more sustainable world through their respective industries.

Five Talents has been awarded the International Prize for Global Citizenship. Sustain recognized the unique contribution of Five Talents to the continuing effort of advancing sustainable development on a global scale. Five Talents projects have proven to be ground-breaking and strategic as our organization moves forward in the process of fighting poverty, creating jobs and transforming lives.



Rachel Millward, Development Director for Five Talents UK, accepted the award and says “This is a tremendous encouragement for the work of Five Talents and for our microfinance partners in developing countries.”

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Notes to Editors:

Five Talents aims to fight poverty in the developing world by creating jobs. This is achieved by providing business training, support for savings groups and funding for microloan capital. The loans start as low as £20 - each one helping an entrepreneur to start or build a small business.

Five Talents UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1113969) which currently supports 20,000 people through 12 microfinance partners in 11 countries in the developing world as follows:

Five Talents is the microfinance initiative of the worldwide Anglican church, working with local microfinance partners. Microfinance is increasingly acknowledged to be a highly effective contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction. Microfinance develops local economies and encourages independence rather than dependency on grants.

Since 1999 Five Talents has raised over £1.5 million to fund micro-credit programmes and to provide training in business skills, including basic book-keeping, planning, appraisal, marketing and stewardship. Established businesses include farming, dress-making, retailing, hair-dressing and brick-making.

Women form 60% of loan group members. Payment rates by project are in the range of 85-100%. Each loan can impact as many as 10 people once family members and employees are taken into account.

Five Talents was founded at the Lambeth Conference of Anglican church leaders in 1998, created as a long term response to help the poor in developing countries based on need not creed. Five Talents works with the local church in communities to gather, train and financially equip entrepreneurs.

Five Talents was established in the USA in 1999 and in the UK in 2005. The name is taken from the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) in which the “good and faithful servant” takes the Master’s five talents and through effort and initiative gains five more.

Five Talents’ International Patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Five Talents’ partners provide services to local communities irrespective of religion or tribe, based on need not creed.

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