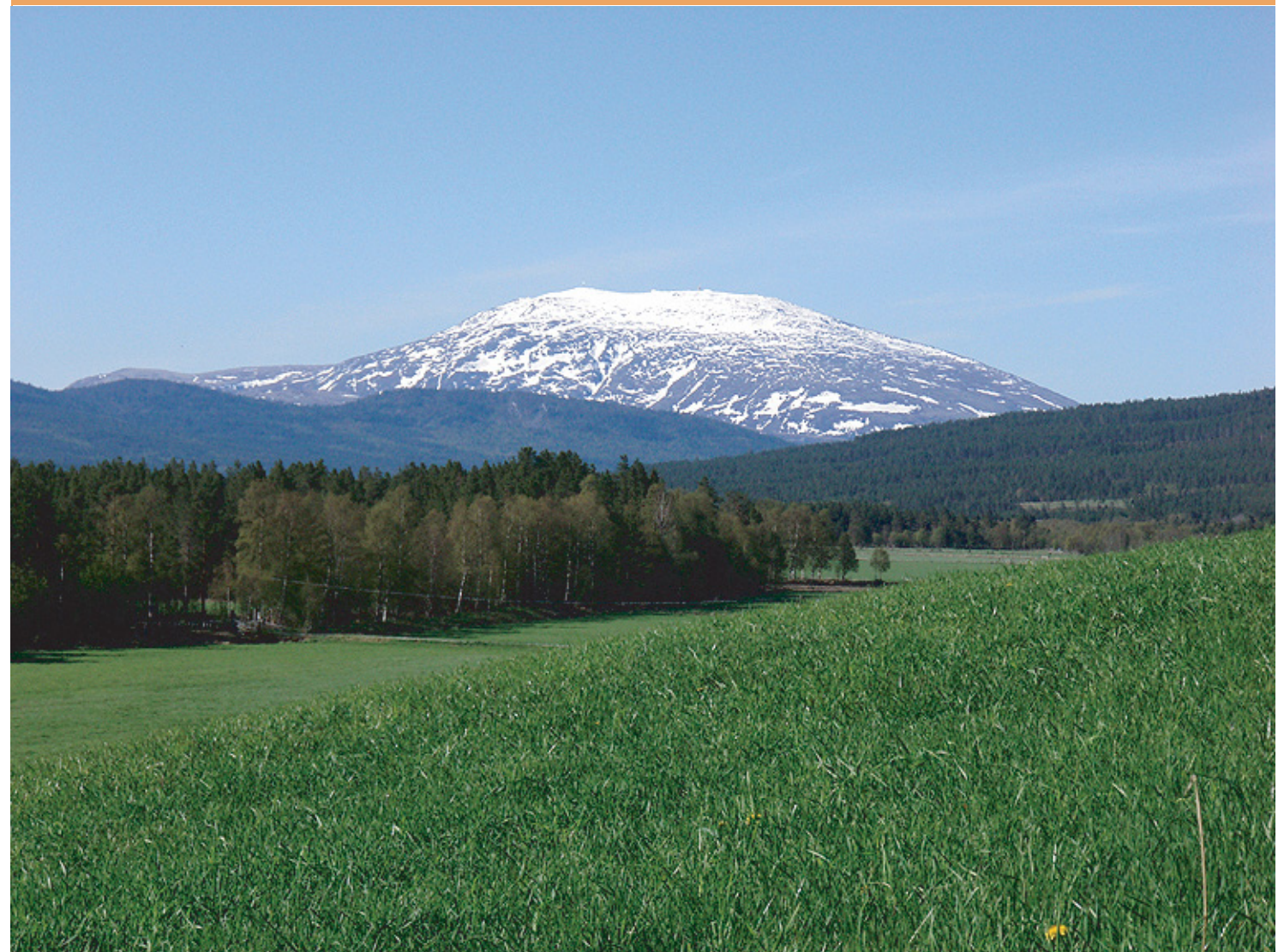




# The Mt. Tron Mail

July 2006 • Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation • No.2 Vol.9



*Mt. Tron seen from North near the municipal border between Tynset and Tolga, before noon on the 6th June 2006. Photo: BP.*

## The Mt. Tron University of Peace

**A humaniversity for universal harmony**

**Detailed project description**

### **Continuation**

In this edition of The Mt. Tron Mail we continue reproduce the contents of the booklet with the same title as the heading above, as we started in the previous edition. On the next pages we reproduce the preface and the third chapter of the booklet. The preface, as it appears here, is completely new this year. The summarizing of the whole project, as referred to in the previous edition, was reproduced in No. 4 - 2005.

The editor regrets that The Mt. Tron Mail this time comes in July instead of in June as it usually do.

### **Latest news**

Both in the March- and in the September issue last year we wrote about the new council plan of Alvdal, which was started in January the same year. The new council plan will be in force during the period 2006-2016, and should have been presented in June this year. After the fusion of certain offices of Alvdal and Tynset municipalities by the turn of the year to increase competence and efficiency, among others the office of planning, all the work with Alvdal's council plan has been standing still since New Year due to understaffing! The presentation of the new council plan has therefore been postponed to Christmas this year.

## PREFACE

The Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation, situated in Norway, is a private, ideal initiative dedicated to establish the first University of Peace <sup>1)</sup> which provides a unique and concrete, large scale plan for individual harmony and collective peace in the world. This booklet presents the background for the foundation and a detailed project description for the realization of the Mt.Tron University of Peace, in Alvdal, Norway.

The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights is the only common pact of humanity, and represents a great and useful foundation for the further development of a truly humane society. However, humanity is facing many serious problems and tough challenges in the world today. We see that in spite of the immense resources, technical know-how and material effectiveness of modern society and "Western lifestyle", we do not succeed in solving our fundamental problems as human beings, nor do we give priority to the uniquely humane values. Putting ever greater distance between ourselves and the bare conditions of natural existence, we are in need of an overall view of human life and a meaningful perspective on humanity. Also the constant insecurity and problems of conflict and strife in the world need to be solved at the "grass-root" level.

The University of Peace takes the problems and challenges of humankind seriously and aspires to provide a practical tool to do something about them, both on the individual and on the collective level. We aspire to run a global centre for Humanity which will be open for all, free from dogma, "-isms", prejudice and passing political or spiritual trends – independent of any religious, ideological, or other affiliations – and which will function as a trans-national forum for peace, human possibilities and human dignity.

We invite you to read this presentation about the University of Peace to be situated in an incomparable location on Mt.Tron in Norway, to share our vision for peace and harmony in the world, and to become a participant in the realization of the Mt.Tron University of Peace.

Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation,  
Alvdal, Norway



Bjørn Pettersen  
(Chairman)



Tripti Chatterjee  
(Board member)



Knud Larsen  
(Board member)

1) We are of course aware of the existence of several institutions known as "Peace Universities" in the World, however it will become clear from this booklet in which ways the Mt.Tron University of Peace is different and in fact totally unique.





*Mt.Tron in late autumn with the river Glomma in front. View from North-West near the village of Tynset.*

## Project

### The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

In February 1993 a group of idealistic people established The Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation, as a free, independent, private and ideal foundation, which is self-owned and has a simple and concise organizational structure with a board of three members. Its aim and objective is to realize the first University of Peace on Mt.Tron in Alvdal in Norway. It will also administer the Mt.Tron University of Peace in particular and the University of Peace in general. And it will be the owner of all real estate, buildings and household contents relating to the Mt.Tron University of Peace. Its headquarters is at "Shantibu" on the forest-clad slopes of Mt.Tron in Alvdal.

The idea of the future "University of Peace" was mentioned in two books published in 1921, "Karlina Rani" and "Kalkaram", by the Indian Sannyasin and Professor Swami Sri Ananda Acharya (1881-1945), who resided on the slopes of Mt.Tron in Alvdal, Norway, from 1917 to 1945. More recently the inspiration to start a concrete project given by the Indian Sannyasin Swami Paramananda (1954-1999), who stayed at "Shantibu", Alvdal, in 1989-90, 1993, 1995 and 1998, has been a major influence behind the Foundation and the project.

### Major events

**1993:** A first draft of plans for the project was drawn up in collaboration with the architects Snøhetta and Gaia-Oslo and delivered to the municipality of Alvdal, which responded positively. The Mt.Tron University of Peace was also the subject of the final diploma for two students of architecture at the Norwegian Institute of Technology. A logo was made and a folder with information on the project in both Norwegian and English was published and distributed free to all the households of Alvdal, and more widely.

**1994:** The Norwegian national television channel (NRK) broadcast a 15 minute programme about the plans on the national network during peak viewing hours.

**1995:** A prospectus on the project was printed in connection with a formal request to the municipality of Alvdal. On October 12th the local authority passed a resolution to prepare a council plan for the Mt.Tron area which will allow for the university plans of the Foundation.

**1996:** The architect Professor Knud Larsen at the Norwegian Institute of Technology made a sketch project for the Foundation, and a detailed presentation of the whole project was delivered before the executive committee of Alvdal municipality.

**1998:** A quarterly newsletter in both Norwegian and English – "The Mt.Tron Mail" – began publication to update interested subscribers about the progress of the project, and the newsletter has been issued regularly ever since.

**1999:** The Foundation's first WEB-pages were published on the Internet and a new folder was printed and published. Two of the local political parties included work for the plans of the University of Peace in their election programme.

**2001:** A work model was made by Professor Knud Larsen.

**2002:** Professor Knud Larsen completed the "Mt.Tron University of Peace Pre-Project 20.02.2002" containing completely new drawings, the culmination of the preceding years' planning work.

**2003:** A new logo was made. Professor Knud Larsen completed extensive improvements to the pre-project, in early spring and it is now called the "Mt.Tron University of Peace Pre-Project 03.03.2003". On the Internet entirely new WEB-pages were published comprising the whole project. The creation of a 3D presentation of the project started. A new general information folder on the project was published, and the present booklet was printed and published in English for the first time. Two of the Foundation's board members contributed at the international Peace Symposium "Pathways to Peace" held at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

**2005:** Full moral support from "Heart to Heart Service", run by Teresa Hsu (born 1898!) and Sharana Rao in Singapore, by letter of 30th August 2005.

### General views

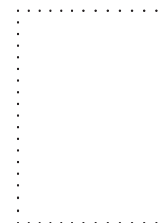
#### Ecology

The intention is to create an ecological pioneer project – a self-sustaining unit with alternative sources of energy. Ecological thinking and simplicity will be the basis for concepts, materials and building methods. It is a fundamental element of the principles of the University of Peace that the building will rest harmoniously in its surroundings with materials and design which complement the site, and it is intended that 'new' ecologically soft technologies, with regard to energy and the handling of waste, will be naturally integrated into the construction.

#### Economy

The buildings will be financed by national and international benefactors, the Norwegian Government and local councils, other institutions, private persons and special campaigns. There will be no loans. After the construction is completed, the budget will cover operating expenses and maintenance. The Foundation will have complete ownership of the buildings at all stages.

*(Continuation next page)*



Return address:

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2560 Alvdal, NORWAY

**To:**

## The Mt. Tron Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt. Tron University of Peace

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### **Operation**

Operating costs will be financed chiefly through income from Art of Life courses, seminars, hire of the conference hall and other rooms by other institutions and the renting of rooms for retreat by private persons. In addition there will be income from the sale of literature, illustrations and a variety of products made at the University, and from various donations. There will also be organised a "Society of Friends" supporters organisation with its own statutes which will aim at financing the operation through a yearly contribution based on relatively small sums, but with an increasing membership.

### **Present situation**

#### **Local authorities**

The local authorities have always viewed the plans for a university of peace on Mt. Tron positively but lack of staff and finances during the past years have prevented the local municipality rotating the regular plans concerning most of the Alvdal area, and thus the municipality of Alvdal has yet to make council plans for the Mt. Tron area for the adaptation of the University of Peace in accordance with the resolution of 12th October 1995. However, on 13th May 2004 the executive committee passed a resolution to put into effect revision of the council plans, and by an announcement in the local media on 2nd February 2005 the process of this work has started.

#### **Legal condition**

In 1998 the municipality of Alvdal expropriated land on the very top of Mt. Tron for the benefit of the Norwegian Air Traffic and Airport Management who then built a civil radar installation on the site. In connection with this the local authorities started a case at the land consolidation court in 1997 to determine the owner- and user-rights on Mt. Tron.

This case was concluded in 2004 and the court has registered a total of 105 parties with legal rights to the mountain and organized them into four separate bodies of joint ownership with their own defined sectors of the mountain. These right-holders are mostly local farmers with traditional, established, usage for grazing their cattle or with land or properties bordering the mountain at the tree line, and cabin owners, hunting parties and so on who have had these rights for generations.

The Foundation will have to deal with only one of these four bodies of joint ownership, the smallest, comprising only eight parties. This particular body of owners governs the sector of the mountain which includes the "Peace Plateau" where the planned Mt. Tron University of Peace is to be situated

#### **Status quo**

The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation has worked incessantly since its establishment in 1993 to develop and publish the project plans, and to make them available to authorities and the general public. Today, the plans and their presentation are as thorough and particular as they can be at this stage in the process.

#### **Next steps**

A council plan with the necessary preparation for, and adaptation of, the Foundation's plans on Mt. Tron, is now required. This is in the hands of the local authorities and the council plan for all of Alvdal will be ready in 2006.

Whichever the way forward the Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation is now ready to search for persons disposed to provide financial support with the commitment and will to donate the funds needed on an idealistic and sympathetic basis from this point forward all the way to the completion of the project.