



### **An Introduction to SWORDE-Teppa.**

***SWORDE-Teppa's Establishment:*** SWORDE-Teppa first started operations in 2000 as 'Future', a local voluntary group in Tajikistan. 'Future' and all its projects and staff later changed to the new name of SWORDE-Teppa. SWORDE-Teppa's constitution was adopted in Tajikistan on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2002 and amended on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2003. SWORDE-Teppa was entered on the central register of charities and registered in the UK on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2003. SWORDE-Teppa can be found on the list of charities on the Charity Commission for England and Wales website.



*Friends of SWORDE-Teppa, Kurgan-Tyube, Tajikistan.*

SWORDE-Teppa has two founders. One of the founders is a Tajik citizen, a Tajik State University graduate in foreign languages and has considerable diplomatic skills, has worked in senior management positions with INGOs and the UN in Tajikistan since 1996. He has lived through a civil war in his own country and this experience uniquely places him in the understanding of peoples needs in the aftermath of such desperate situations.

SWORDE-Teppa's other founder is a British citizen, a University of London graduate in Zoology and a London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Masters graduate in Medical Entomology. He has worked for various UN and INGOs in the Republic of Tajikistan since May 1999 both in projects and as independent consultant.

Both founders first met in Tajikistan when they worked together in malaria and school heating programmes from May 1999 to June 2000. After the experiences of working with other organizations, the two founders were determined to establish a new, improved and forward thinking organisation geared towards the more complicated challenges and needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

SWORDE-Teppa's Executive Board is made up of a variety of specialists and eminent members from the UK, Tajikistan and other countries around the world. These include; company executives, science Professors and Doctors, charity workers, film editor, nurse, and many more.

SWORDE-Teppa is one of the first charities/ International Non-Governmental Organisations to be set up by Founder Trustees with two very different cultural backgrounds, with both western-type and eastern-type ways of thinking. This better understanding of peoples' cultures, languages and customs, together with a diverse wealth of specialist knowledge and experience, from our Board and other personnel, is invaluable to SWORDE-Teppa's work. We are able to bridge the gap between cultures and we believe that we are uniquely placed to deliver the very best, relevant and sensitive assistance to communities around the world.

### **What Does Our Name Mean?**

SWORDE stands for 'Sustainable World Development within the Environment'. This is basically what we are about, development and poverty reduction, not at the expense of the environment, but working with the environment. Teppa comes from the name of the city Qurghontepa, in the south-west of Tajikistan (Kurgan-Tyube in the Russian language). Qurghontepa means **high hill** in the Tajik and Uzbek languages. In the middle of the city is a high hill, situated between the two rivers Juibor and Khonum. This hill is artificial and originally made by the Bukhara Amirs in the middle of a vast ancient sea and salt marsh. A large fortress was placed upon the hill. Now there only stands a more recent museum and monument, with commanding views over the area. The city of Qurghontepa is where the idea for SWORDE-Teppa was spawned and where we first started working, where the two founders first met and where one of the founders lives. Qurghontepa is also significant in that it is testament that through human will, and against considerable odds, people strived to transform this malarious swampland into somewhere to live. If it could be done here, then it could be done anywhere.

### **What Does Our Logo Mean?**

The green lazy 'S' on its side forms the hill, or 'Teppa' in Tajik. This represents the hill in the centre of the city of Qurghonteppa. More broadly it represents the rolling hills and valleys of opportunities in life in general. The 'T' stands on top of the hill representing the ancient fortresses which once stood on the city hill and the monument now standing on the hill. It also represents the tree of life and future growth. The golden sun rises behind the hill and represents the rise of future opportunities and the warmth of human fellowship. The green below the 'S' represent the environment and its importance linked with human development.



***QURGHONTEPPA monument – 1999, by S. Hodjaev.***

### **How do we work?**

SWORDE-Teppa is a reconstruction and development organization and is therefore committed to sustainable projects, with the emphasis on encouraging, supporting and helping to provide opportunities to people to do things for themselves and not to rely on the UN, INGOs and others for relief for the rest of their lives. SWORDE-Teppa projects can provide much needed economic opportunities for the local community and are vital for urban and rural regeneration and development. Many of these projects are to be

handed over to local groups at the end of funding periods. We believe that this is the only way to ensure long-term success.

Many SWORDE-Teppa projects are part of larger development programmes within the relevant country of operation. Thus, there is a long-term development commitment to these countries from SWORDE-Teppa.

**Method of Operation:**

SWORDE-Teppa provides:

- Human resources (eg. Staff and volunteers).
- Services (eg. Care and counseling).
- Advocacy, advice and information.
- Sponsorship or undertakes research.
- Protection as an umbrella or resource body.

SWORDE-Teppa currently operates from the city of Kurgan-Tyube, in the south Khatlon region of Tajikistan. SWORDE-Teppa has established links with the community and excellent working relations with the local authorities, Tajik Ministry of Health, Tropical Disease Centres, WHO RBM Europe, Education, Environment and Sport Ministries and other INGOs and NGOs.

SWORDE-Teppa also has established links with institutions in the UK, such as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the British Natural History Museum, the University of East London and others.

SWORDE-Teppa's initial programmes and projects are all based or linked to the

Republic of Tajikistan. Here are some of the reasons why?

1. SWORDE-Teppa believes that the stability of this region of the world is dependent on key states and their stability and future prosperity. Tajikistan is a key player in this region and we believe, for various reasons, will develop more in international importance. Thus support is needed in Tajikistan for future stability.
2. Tajikistan is the bridge between cultures, between Turk, Persian, Mongol and Chinese, between the old 'Great Game' Empires of Russia and Great Britain and the new independent states, between Europe and Asia. This link between cultures is key to the success of the region.
3. Tajikistan neighbours China (a potential huge trade partner).
4. Tajikistan neighbours Afghanistan, and is in close proximity to Pakistan, India and Kashmir. Tajikistan is thus central and a stable base for many possible aid and development programmes in some of these countries.
5. Tajikistan is central to aid and development programmes in the Central Asian Republics.

6. Tajikistan is the geographical centre of the new and emerging economies of the former Soviet Central Asian Republics.
7. SWORDE-Teppa's two founders and trustees are both presently based in Tajikistan and have years of experience and contacts working in the Republic.
8. There are great many vital programmes and projects to be implemented in Tajikistan.
9. There are very many enthusiastic and qualified nationals wishing to help build a more prosperous community with the support of SWORDE-Teppa and others.
10. There are many hundreds of thousands of potential beneficiaries in need of our assistance.

**Beneficiaries:**

Although SWORDE-Teppa projects benefit all of the community, we are particularly focused on children and young people, the elderly and infirm. Children and young people are the future and the elderly and infirm the most vulnerable in society.

SWORDE-Teppa is also seeking to expand its operations to neighbouring Central Asian republics, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, as well as other countries around the world.

We have a number of projects planned within our objects and awaiting further interest and funding.

Please contact for any further details on SWORDE-Teppa and its activities. **We can't do it without you. Please help us to help others.**