What do you hope for in the future from the Findhorn Foundation’s education offerings and partnerships?

Introduction

Based on the extensive feedback provided, it’s evident that the collective aspirations for the Findhorn Foundation’s future education offerings and partnerships are rich and diverse. Some participants expressed a deep desire for the Foundation to evolve and adapt to the changing times, emphasising the need for a more integrated, inclusive, and globally conscious approach. Here’s a summary of the prominent themes and findings that have emerged from the feedback:

Global Outreach and Digital Transformation

- There’s an evident need for global outreach, with suggestions for the Foundation to extend its ethos worldwide through partnerships that reflect its core values of co-creation, sustainability, and spiritual growth.
- The digital transformation of educational offerings is seen as crucial, with calls for hybrid (online and in-person) learning models, global membership models, and leveraging online platforms to engage with younger audiences and make the Findhorn teachings more accessible globally.

Youth Engagement and Educational Relevance

- Engaging young people and making the Foundation's offerings relevant to them was highlighted as a priority. There’s a desire to see the Foundation offer education that prepares young individuals to contribute meaningfully to the world, with suggestions for programs focusing on peace-building, ecological and ethical living, and leadership.
- Demonstrating how the core principles can translate into modern life and practical living
- Some participants also expressed a desire for the Foundation to provide practical skills education, such as green building and permaculture, aligned with ecological and ethical living principles.
Community Integration and Leadership

- Some call for the Foundation to move towards a more community-driven model, where education and spiritual practices are co-created with the community, emphasising inclusivity and collective leadership.
- Suggestions for the Foundation to act as a facilitative role, empowering community-led initiatives, and integrating more deeply with the broader Findhorn community and possibly even merging with it to streamline efforts and resources.

Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility

- Some feedback emphasises the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility, with suggestions for the Foundation to focus on local engagement and reduce the carbon footprint associated with international travel.
- Some community voices value the physical space of Findhorn for conferences, education, retreats, and spiritual restoration but also recognize the need for the Foundation to be environmentally aware and adapt its operations accordingly.
- Others addressed the issues of carbon footprint reduction through imagining hybridised online/place based experiences that moved the potential to further outreach experiences through individuals, partnerships and new venues.

Spiritual and Educational Focus

- The spiritual underpinning of the Foundation's work is highly valued, with a call for a continued focus on inner listening, co-creation with nature, and work as love in action. However, there's also a desire for the Foundation to innovate and offer new forms of spiritual education that meet the current world's needs.
- Suggestions include developing more focused educational programs, potentially partnering with world leaders addressing the spiritual call or academic institutions, ensuring the educational offerings are dynamic, creative, and vibrant.

Financial Accessibility and Diversity

- Concerns about the affordability of courses and the need to make the Foundation's offerings more accessible and attractive to a wider, more diverse audience were mentioned. This includes rethinking the financial model to support inclusivity as a fundamental tenet of its charitable calling.
Conclusion

The feedback collected paints a picture of a global community deeply invested in the Findhorn Foundation's future, desiring a shift towards more inclusive, community-driven, globally engaged, and environmentally responsible operations. The emphasis on youth engagement, digital transformation, and maintaining the spiritual essence of the Foundation's work while making it relevant to the challenges of today's world is clear. These insights should serve as valuable guidance for the Foundation's strategic planning and operational adjustments moving forward.