



Mexico and Central American Regional Convening

“Awakening Consciousness & Forming Alliances: Indigenous Peoples and Philanthropy”

January 18-20, 2008
Querétaro, Mexico

IFIP Goes Global

IFIP announces our first-ever regional convening scheduled to take place in Querétaro, Mexico, which features an optional post-conference trip to Oaxaca to explore the cultural richness and political reality of the state. The inaugural international gathering, themed *Awakening Consciousness & Forming Alliances: Indigenous Peoples and Philanthropy*, will bring donors and Indigenous leaders from around the world together to discuss emerging issues facing Indigenous communities. It will also explore new approaches to funding and provide strategies relevant to Indigenous issues and concerns primarily in Mexico & Central America.

This groundbreaking event with dialogue and sessions will explore new ways to build true partnerships, provide real examples of best donor practices, and raise broader awareness of cultural, environmental and globalization issues in the region.

When: January 18-20, 2008

Where: Querétaro, México

Queretaro, which lies just north of Mexico City, was the original home of the Otomí people prior to colonization. A 350-meter monolith believed to be among the three largest in the world, watches over the entrance to the Sierra Gorda region, and is believed by locals to be endowed with spiritual powers. Visits to surrounding indigenous communities and historical ruins will be incorporate in the conference agenda.

Who: Foundations and Donors who are interested in funding opportunities and strategies for the Mexico and Central American region. Local Indigenous leaders and indigenous representatives from different continents are being invited to participate.

Why: This groundbreaking event is the first of several funder gatherings which IFIP will be planning in regions around the World in the coming years. The Asia-Pacific Region will be the venue for the 2009 funders gathering.

What: Informative sessions on issues faced in the region by funders and indigenous groups; Networking and Strategy sessions; Learning and discussion with indigenous leaders; Mexican history and culture; site visits to local indigenous communities. We will have 3 tracks:

TRACK 1: Cultural Identity and Globalization

TRACK 2: Indigenous Rights: Policy and Practice

TRACK 3: Methodologies and Effective Strategies

Call for Sessions:

A Call for Sessions is available now. We encourage you to submit a session or forward the invitation to a colleague. Deadline is September 15, 2007, for form contact:

ifip@internationalfunders.org

Post-conference Trip to Oaxaca: Once central to the Mixtec and Zapotec civilizations, it is still the home to over 15 diverse and traditional indigenous communities. We are excited to invite you to join us for a learning trip with local foundations and organizers to experience these cultures first-hand. More information on this opportunity will follow soon.

Planning Committee: IFIP's regional planning committee brings an immeasurable amount of experience in the region:

Jackie Rivas, CEMEFI, México City

Jose Malvido, Seva Foundation, Berkeley

Phil McManus, Appleton Foundation, Santa Cruz, CA

Kathy Vargas, Fundacion Querétaro, Querétaro, México

Randy Gingrich, Tierra Nativa A. C. Chihuahua, México

David Kaimowitz, Ford Foundation, México City, México

Millie Brobston, Fondo Centroamericano de mujeres, Nicaragua

Jill Southard, Levi Strauss Foundation, San Francisco, CA

Fernanda Venzon, Sierra Madre Alliance, Chihuahua, México

Julieta Mendez, International Community Foundation, San Diego, CA

Jaime Bolanos Cacho Guzmán, Fundacion Comunitaria Oaxaca, México

Emilienne de Leon, Semillas Women's Foundation, México City, México

Evelyn Arce-White, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, Akwesasne, NY

In-country Staff:

Aketzalli Hernandez. Indigenous Advisor, Outreach Coordinator

Online registration will begin in October 2007, see www.internationalfunders.org.