Philanthropic community responds to the importance of Indigenous issues


"It was a historic and whirlwind of a week, in that five foundations (Ford Foundation, Aveda Corporation, American Jewish World Service, Moriah Fund and Honor the Earth) had donor sessions on Indigenous issues before IFIP's annual conference. We are seeing the philanthropic community take notice of Indigenous issues. Issues that have been dreadfully ignored in the past," said IFIP director Evelyn Arce-White.

Since IFIP held its first Linking Circles meeting in 2001, interest has grown from two dozen Indigenous leaders and funders to nearly 100 in 2005. IFIP's network of funders dedicated to becoming more effective in their international Indigenous grantmaking portfolios continues to grow.

Click here for full Press Release or visit internationalfunders.org. Click here to view conference info and photos.

4th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 16 - 27 May 2005
Special Theme: Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples

IFIP successfully distributes 300 Complimentary Spanish and English Indigenous Peoples Funding and Resource Guides at its UN Session.

[Image]

**Click here for the Press Release at internationalfunders.org.**

**Indigenous Leaders Converge at the UN to Discuss Funding Challenges**

**Recommendations Will Improve Access to Funding Opportunities**

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) held an informational session on "Learning Strategies and Techniques to Increase Funding for Indigenous Communities" at the Fourth Annual United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The event was held on May 17th in New York City and discussed challenges Indigenous peoples face in securing funding for development initiatives.

**Permanent Forum Presses for Indigenous Inclusion in Development**

By Lisa Matthews

Over the past two weeks, nearly 1,500 indigenous leaders, activists, and representatives from throughout the world have met at the U.N. headquarters in New York City. The Permanent Forum advises and makes recommendations to the U.N. Economic and Social Council regarding economic and social development, environment, health, human rights, culture, and education.

At this session, the forum examined situations faced by indigenous peoples as countries and organizations strive to meet the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Discussion focused on two of the eight MDGs: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education. "The imposition of so-called development projects and policies without the free, prior and
informed consent of those affected … can lead to destruction or loss of ancestral territories and resources, denigration of indigenous worldviews and values and of their political, economic and socio-cultural systems and institutions, ecosystem degradation, displacement, and violent conflicts," writes Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the newly appointed chairwoman of the Permanent Forum and a Cultural Survival board member, in an expert paper published in advance of the session. for full article: click here

To view documents from the Fourth session click here.

For Opening Statement of the UNPFII Chairperson Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Kankana-ey), Philippines and Executive Director of Tebtebba, elected by consensus as Chairperson by the 16-member body download at http://www.tebtebba.org

World Bank releases report:
Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Human Development in Latin America: 1994-2004

*Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Human Development in Latin America : 1994-2004* considers how social conditions have evolved in the five Latin American countries with the largest indigenous populations (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru) during the last decade, proclaimed in 1994 by the United Nations as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

“Although indigenous people in the region have increased their political power and representation during the last decade, this has not translated into the positive results -in terms of poverty reduction- we had hoped to find when we embarked on this research,” said Gillette Hall, World Bank economist and co-author of the study.

"Poverty rates among the indigenous population are higher and fall more slowly, which is particularly bad news for a continent that has set its sights on meeting the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015,” said Harry Patrinos, World Bank economist and co-author of the study. click here to download the report.

Upcoming Events:

**International Indigenous Youth Conference**

**June 17-24, 2005**

The second International Indigenous Youth Conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, on June 17-24, 2005. The conference will take place within Indigenous territories on the coast and the interior of BC.

The goals set at the first conference will be furthered by addressing the theme of, “Strengthening solidarity among Indigenous youth in asserting Indigenous people’s rights amidst globalization,” at the second International Indigenous Youth Conference in 2005. [click here](#) to register.

**“Think Outside the Bomb”**

**August 15-21, 2005**

Days after international commemorations of the 60th anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a select group of young leaders will convene in Santa Barbara, California to craft plans to create a more secure and compassionate world. “Think Outside the Bomb” will bring together some 70 student leaders, disarmament experts, veteran activists, and artists from across the US for panel discussions and skill training. The gathering is scheduled for August 15-21, 2005 at the University of California Santa Barbara. Among the goals of “Think Outside the Bomb” are for participants to deepen their understanding of nuclear issues, expand personal and professional networks, and familiarize themselves with various organizing resources.

Lodging and food will be subsidized for all participants. Limited travel stipends are available. For more information on “Think Outside the Bomb,” visit [wagingpeace.org/youth](http://wagingpeace.org/youth) or contact Michael Coffey, Director of Youth Programs, at (805) 965-3443 or email [mcoffey@napf.org](mailto:mcoffey@napf.org)

**Amazon Alliance presents Amazon Forum VII**

**Sept 20-22, 2005 in Washington DC**

For more info email Meghan at [yura@amazonalliance.org](mailto:yura@amazonalliance.org) or Call 202-785-3334

**Save the Date**

**National Network of Grantmakers Conference 2005**

**Oct 8-11, 2005**

National Network of Grantmakers Conference 2005 THE POWER OF GENERATIONS: Pursuing Social Justice through Sacred Relationships at Semiahmoo Resort and Conference Center,
Funders Conference Calls
Funder Briefing Call on the WTO/Road to Hong Kong
June 9, 9am Pacific/Noon Eastern
The next WTO summit will take place in December 2005 in Hong Kong, and this meeting will be a crucial one for competing visions of the WTO's future. If the agenda set forth last summer in Geneva is accepted more or less intact, the opportunity to change the course of the WTO will have been greatly diminished and the status quo will continue.

On the other hand, if worldwide and increasingly well organized civil society campaigning efforts combine effectively with increased assertiveness on the part of middle income countries such as Brazil and India, WTO expansion may come to a halt and the institution and the economic model it defends may be thrown decisively on the defensive. The ability to move ahead with alternatives that promote economic justice, safeguard the environment and enhance democratic accountability rests at least to an important extent on outcomes in Hong Kong.

Carin Smaller, with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policies Trade Information Project in Geneva. Margrete Strand Rangnes, Sierra Club's Senior Trade Program Representative and helps coordinate the Our World Is Not For Sale alliance. Elizabeth Tang with the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions and a leader of The Hong Kong People's Alliance on the WTO.

To RSVP and receive call information, contact mark@fntg.org

Funders Conference Call - Threat to environmental safeguards from the US Courts
Tuesday, June 21 at 4 pm EDT
What's at Stake in the Battle Over Judges: Current Threats to Environmental Law

You are invited to join a conference call for funders interested in the current threats to environmental law. A briefing by Doug Kendall (Executive Director, Community Rights Counsel), Leslie Carothers (President, Environmental Law Institute), and Buck Parker (President, Earthjustice) on recent developments in the courts, on the Senate floor, and in the court of public opinion. CRC and ELI have created the "Partnership for Constitutional and Environmental Law" to investigate, publicize, and counteract threats to environmental law and to the larger constitutional framework. CRC and Earthjustice coordinate "Judging the Environment," a comprehensive campaign for highlighting the
environmental stakes in judicial nominations and preventing the confirmation of anti-environmental idealogues to lifetime positions on the federal bench. The call is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st at 4:00 pm EDT. Please RSVP by reply e-mail to Osa Oiyayi at oiyayi@ega.org if you plan to join this call.

To unsubscribe email Evelyn Arce-White with "remove" in the subject line.