



# INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL



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*"Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Internationally"*

## **INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL** **ANNUAL REPORT**

**JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2000**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

In 2000, the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) continued to provide a unique link, voice and organizing base for traditional and grass roots Peoples to address issues of critical concern and direct relevance to their communities from the local to the international levels. IITC's consistent efforts resulted in concrete, even historic gains in building participation, addressing critical threats, and advancing mechanisms and standards to more effectively defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

During 2000, IITC addressed issues of critical concern to Indigenous Peoples, focusing on: 1) Environmental Justice, Protection of Biological Diversity, Sustainable Development and Biological Ethics; 2) Racism and Racial Justice; 3) Treaties and Land Rights 3) Children and Youth Rights; 4) Prisoners Rights; 5) Cultural Rights and Freedom of Religion and; 6) Health of Indigenous Peoples.

IITC provided Indigenous communities, too often historically voiceless and disenfranchised in policy debates at the national level, with an opportunity to have their voices heard in the international arena. This resulted in increased national and international support, increased international pressure on states to resolve critical situations, new opportunities to redress violations, and increasing calls for implementation of standards which recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2000, IITC worked skillfully and actively in close coordination with grassroots organizations, tribes, communities and networks, empowering and supporting them by providing information, vigorous advocacy, representation, capacity building and technical assistance. IITC was able to play a vital role supporting community-based efforts to protect sacred sites, halt toxic waste dumping, protect vital eco systems, prevent forced relocations, free Indigenous prisoners, build community based sustainable development modes and diffuse situations of military repression. .

IITC continued to disseminate information to Indigenous Peoples regarding international developments, standards and opportunities they provide to address critical issues in conjunction with local organizing. IITC also continued to educate the general public about issues and concerns of Indigenous Peoples through presentations at international, national and local

conferences, outreach and networking with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and issue-based coalitions.

## **B. OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

IITC's work, as outlined in the General Workplan for 2000, focused on activities carried out under five basic program objectives:

### **1. Responding to Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

**SUMMARY:** IITC provided ongoing support and assistance to grass roots communities facing violations of their rights and crisis situations upon their request. IITC filed various urgent complaints, "urgent actions" and formal interventions to the OAS, specialized agencies, government officials, and especially to UN Human Rights bodies and Special Rapporteurs.

Ongoing coordination and communications with communities and organizations facing critical threats contributed to their increased involvement in this form of redress, and their increased appreciation of the potential impacts of international pressure in conjunction with grassroots activism.

### **HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

1. IITC responded to requests from a wide range of Indigenous communities and Peoples facing critical threats to their rights and survival. These included: Tohono O'odham Nation, Arizona/Sonora, Mexico, (toxic gold mining and political prisoners); the Gross Ventre Nation, White Clay Society Montana (toxic gold mining and US military test bombing on sacred sites and treaty lands); Guatemala (Arbitrary detentions and death threats); Gwich'in Nation Alaska/Canada (proposed oil exploration in ANWR's caribou calving grounds); Western Shoshone, Ft. Mohave and Goshute tribes (proposed federal nuclear waste dump sites and nuclear testing); Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa, Wisconsin (proposed Exxon zinc sulphite mine); Big Mountain, Dineh Nation, Arizona (forced relocation, destruction of sacred sites and coal strip mining); Mt. Shasta CA, (proposed thermal energy development at Medicine Lake sacred sites); Yaqui Tribe, Arizona/Sonora (land and water rights, impacts of immigration laws on cultural practices, proliferation of toxic pesticides); the Native American Prisoners Rights Coalition (arbitrary detention and denial of medical treatment for Leonard Peltier, denial of religious freedom and ceremonial rights for Indian prisoners, and the death penalty); Chiapas, Mexico (militarism, relocation, and repression of Indigenous women); Kickapoo Indians, Oklahoma (opposing destruction of sacred sites and burial grounds by proposed construction of a Mexico to Canada superhighway mandated under provisions of NAFTA); Indigenous tribes and communities in Alaska (bio-piracy by pharmaceutical companies beginning to openly operate in Alaska); Indigenous communities in Columbia and Panama (impacts of the US funded "war on drugs" and "operation Columbia"); Indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian, Columbian and Brazilian Amazon region (deforestation and oil development); Indigenous Peoples in Mexico (two Goldman Prize winning Indigenous activists imprisoned); Wasilla Alaska and Northern California (Indian school mascot protests and impacts of racism on local Indian High School students); Indigenous communities in the US (Continued removal of Indian children from communities in violation of the Indian Child Welfare Act); Yaqui Indian Cultural leaders, Arizona (unauthorized exploitation and appropriation of traditional ceremonial practices); Indian Youth in Oakland California (police brutality, gang violence intervention and impacts of racism in juvenile justice systems); and critical impacts of global climate change and proliferation of

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) affecting many communities, especially traditional farming, hunting and gathering Peoples, children and the unborn.

2. IITC continued to disseminate the 1999 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance in religious discrimination impacting Indigenous Peoples in the US, which resulted from a case filed by the IITC addressing forced relocation of the Dineh (Navajo) Peoples of Arizona in 1996. IITC monitored the US response to the findings, and filed updates and new developments.

3. Other complaints, special reports and urgent actions were submitted, monitored and/or updated by IITC, in conjunction with the impacted communities and Peoples. These submissions included: the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons, the High Commission on Human Rights and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (Military, economic and political repression of Indigenous Peoples in Chiapas, Mexico); the Special Rapporteur for the ongoing UN Study on Indigenous Peoples' Land Rights ; the UN Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance (bombing of sacred sites in Montana, Big Mountain relocation and mining-related desecration of burial grounds and ceremonial sites, and forced hair-cutting of Indian Prisoners in California); the International Labor Organization (relocation due to dam building and flooding of farmlands in Oaxaca, Mexico); the President of the Year 2000 Commission on Sustainable Development (permits issued in Columbia for oil drilling adjacent to U'wa Indian communities, raising issues of proper consultation); The Committee on Arbitrary Detentions and Special Rapporteur on Torture (Leonard Peltier); the High Commission on Human Rights (recommendations for the Plan of Action for the Third World Conference Against Racism); The Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (responding to the United State's biannual report to CERD, challenging US Compliance with the Convention of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination pertaining to its treatment and policies impacting Indians in the US, focusing on land rights, health, assimilation attempts, cultural and religious discrimination and environmental racism); The UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions and the High Commissioner for Human Rights' 1503 procedure (increasing death threats, intimidations and assassinations of Indigenous activists and organizations in Guatemala). Copies of UN filings and other inquiries were also sent to relevant national and state government officials and leaders.

4. At the 56<sup>th</sup> Commission on Human Rights (March 20 – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000) IITC presented 15 written and oral interventions at the request and with direct input of impacted Peoples addressing a wide range of critical situations under agenda items on Self Determination, Right to Development, Civil and Political Rights (persons under detention and religious freedom), Science and Environment, Indigenous Issues, Indigenous Women's Rights, Rights of the Child, Racial Discrimination, Cultural rights and Human Rights Violations Anywhere in the World..

5. IITC continued to address international human rights bodies as well as appropriate governmental agencies regarding Indigenous prisoners rights, including the discriminatory and disproportionate impacts of the death penalty on Indigenous Peoples and other peoples of color in the U.S., denial of religious freedom rights, and arbitrary detentions of specific Indigenous prisoners, such as Leonard Peltier and traditional Tohono O'odham elder from Arizona, Mr. Chana Velasco, who continued to be held in jail in Nogales Mexico since March 1999, wrongfully accused of association with drug traffickers.

Significant, unprecedented attention was generated in the international area as a result of IITC's work in the WCAR preparatory process addressing the ongoing discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples in the US pertaining to their freedom of religious practice and cultural self-

determination rights. Considerable attention among states, NGO's and the press was given to IITC Board member and National Coordinator of the Native American Prisoners Rights Coalition Mr. Lenny Foster's IITC presentation at the WCAR prepcom in May regarding denial of religious and ceremonial rights for Indian and Native prisoners, including those facing the death penalty.

In June 2000, as a direct result of IITC's interventions, the US Justice Department invited Mr. Foster for the first time to meet in Washington DC to discuss how to move towards resolving these ongoing violations of human rights in the US.

6. In April of 2000, IITC coordinated and credentialed the participation of several representatives Indigenous communities at the CSD, including a Yaqui Indian farmer from Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico who presented devastating critical health impacts affecting children and other members of his community, including several recent deaths, resulting from the use of toxic pesticides, many of which are exported from the US yet are banned for use in this country due to their hazardous impacts on human health.

7. IITC worked to bring about, assist with and provide consultation for United Nations investigations into ongoing and pending threats to life and violations of human rights, i.e. the scheduled trip to Mexico by UN Human Rights Officials (Jan. – Feb. ) which came about in part as a result of IITC's work in 1999.

8. During the IITC annual Conference in Guatemala (July 2000), considerable attention, including ongoing press coverage and international statements of solidarity and support was generated for the reemergence, despite ongoing discrimination and repression, of the traditional Mayan ceremonial practices and spiritual leaders, as well as Indigenous leaders, organizations and human rights defenders as a result of increasing paramilitary activity.

9. IITC staff worked on submission of comments addressing cases of land rights and Treaty violations of the Lakota and Western Shoshone Peoples in preparation for submission of cases and updates as requested by UN Special Rapporteur Ms. Erica Daes for her ongoing report on Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## **2) International Policy Development and Standard Setting**

**SUMMARY:** In 2000, work continued to build the direct and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the development of effective international standards, policies and mechanisms for redress of grievances, defending rights and providing international oversight in critical situations and ongoing violations.

IITC continued to participate directly in the development of new standards and mechanisms which underscore the inextricable links between Environmental Protection, Human Rights and the fundamental right of self-determination, including the adoption of the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a Special Rapporteur on Indigenous issues and implementation of an effective Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN system.

IITC also continued to call for universal and non-discriminatory implementation and broader applicability of existing international norms and standards for the full recognition of Indigenous Peoples as Peoples with rights under International Law.

Major, even historic strides continued to be made by IITC in collaboration with other Indigenous NGO's and Nations in advancing policies which address critical concerns and defend the rights of

Indigenous Peoples in bodies such as the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Intersessional Working Group for the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Economic and Social Council, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Bank, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, US Environmental Protection Agency Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, UNESCO, the UN Environmental Program Treaty negotiation bodies for Climate Change and Persistent Organic Pollutants, Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, UN Development Program and the World Health Organization.

IITC's standard setting work in these bodies continued to be based upon the principles of the sacredness of life, equality and dignity of all Peoples and the indivisible relationship between human rights and the protection of the Natural World. IITC worked unflinchingly for full recognition by states and international bodies of the need to protect lands, waters, habitats and sacred sites and to insure the safeguarding of Indigenous Peoples' cultures, health, traditional subsistence practices, racial equality, treaties, land rights and self-determination.

IITC successfully continued to advance the use of new terminology and concepts in international discussions such as environmental racism and biological piracy, and the sacredness of land, which advance and broaden international applications, interpretations and understanding of relationships from the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples in International Human Rights and Environmental fora

#### **HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

1. In 2000, IITC took a leadership role to insure the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and inclusion of their perspectives and issues in the Third United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) held in August/September 2001, towards the adoption of a final Plan of Action and a Declaration that supports and fully recognized the rights of Indigenous Peoples. IITC utilized this historic opportunity to focus on policies resulting in racial discrimination impacting Indigenous Peoples in the US and around the world such as environmental racism, cultural rights violations, impacts of imposed non-sustainable imposed development (mining, oil drilling, toxic pesticides, deforestation), national and international impacts of globalization and "free trade", marginalization and disenfranchisement within national political systems, land and resource appropriation, and discrimination by states in the full application of international human rights and standards, in particular the fundamental rights of all Peoples under international law to development and self-determination.

IITC delegates from the US, Panama, Guatemala and Chile made ground breaking presentations and interventions addressing issues of concern for the WCAR to the UN Commission on Human Rights (March – April 2000), WCAR prepcom (May, Geneva); the International Day of the World Indigenous Peoples (August); the Americas Expert Seminar in Santiago Chile (October); the Americas prepcom for the WCAR, in Santiago (December); and participated in several planning, informational and strategy sessions with Indigenous Peoples in the US and around the world.

IITC's General Council Alberto Saldamando was selected as chair and facilitator for drafting the Indigenous Peoples Declaration in Santiago as well as the English-speaking NGO caucus. IITC Board member and representative of the Kuna Youth Movement Estebancio Castro, coordinated the Youth caucus and the drafting of the Youth Declaration from the prepcom.

At the prepcom, IITC called for a change of position by the US in their ongoing refusal to fully recognize Indigenous Peoples as Peoples with full rights of Peoples as delineated under international law. The US responded with a modified position in December, indicating some degree of progress on this crucial concern.

2. At the UN Commission on Sustainable Development Intersessional session, February 22 - March 3, New York, focusing on policies and practices for sustainable agriculture and rural development. IITC coordinated efforts to insure that Indigenous expert input would be prioritized in preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> CSD session, the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSD.

3. At the IITC 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-8), April 24 – May 5, United Nations, New York. The CSD, created in 1992 as an implementing body for Agenda 21 at the Rio Earth Summit, addresses sustainable development as an evolving concept for assessing the relationship between health and survival of human communities and protection of the natural environment, developing new policies, evaluating and monitoring current state systems and practices

The 8<sup>th</sup> CSD focused on sustainable agriculture polices and related issues such land management, climate change, Persistent Organize Pollutants. As a member of the CSD NGO Steering Committee representing Indigenous Peoples for the third consecutive year, IITC worked to broaden participation by Indigenous communities in presenting an understanding of global sustainability encompassing cultural, environmental, human rights and social, as well as economic factors. IITC worked with states and "major groups" including labor, farmers, environmentalists, industry and Indigenous Peoples to strengthen international agreements for environmental protection as basis for long term global sustainability and human health.

At CSD-8 IITC's representative co- coordinated work of Indigenous Peoples' caucus, and drafted and delivered its recommendations, served as Indigenous Peoples' s focal point in the sustainable agricultural and food systems caucus; coordinated participation and presentations by traditional sustainable agricultural and forestry practitioners from the US, Panama, Mexico and Guatemala. IITC succeeded in achieving agreement from governments, industry and NGOs to continue with the multi stakeholder consultation process on sustainable agriculture and rural development lading up to Rio + 10, the 2002 Earth Summit which will the 10 year review of the first Rio Summit and set a Sustainable Development agenda for the 21st Century, covering a wide range of Environment, Development and Economic issues.

IITC was also invited by UN-CSD Major Groups Focal Point to assist in developing the structure and content for Indigenous Peoples Day for CSD-8. IITC's CSD representative also drafted a letter and held a resulting meeting with the president of the 2000 CSD (the Environmental Minister of Columbia) who authorized oil development adjacent to the U'wa traditional land reserve, challenging this decision, and addressing it as a proposed focus point pertaining to impacts on ground water, community health and subsistence practices.

4. At the 2000 WGIP, IITC UN Liaison Antonio Gonzales, a founding member of the international Committee on Indigenous Health, met with the Committee and representatives of WHO, and participated in drafting an joint intervention presented on the WGIP floor. He serves as one of three North American Indigenous members of the WHO Steering Committee to work towards developing a global framework for WHO programs, focusing on the eventual adoption of a Declaration on the Health Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN level. The health impacts of poverty and discrimination, environmental contamination and imposed development (mining,

toxics, nuclear, POPS, etc.), land and resources loss, cultural destruction, and bio-piracy are focal points of IITC's contribution to these discussions. In May 2000, the government of Canada presented a resolution to the WHO General Assembly for adoption of the report of the Indigenous Round Table with WHO (November 1999), for which IITC was a member of the Steering Committee. It was formally adopted by WHO at that time.

5. IITC continued to serve as an Indigenous NGO member organization of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The IITC was one of two international Indigenous organizations that attended the 2000 World Conservation Congress (Amman, Jordan in October 2000), and directly impacted the final resolutions on habitat protection, climate change, bio-diversity protection and the impacts of persistent organic pollutants. In December, IITC's Executive Director Andrea Carmen was invited and accepted a seat on a newly formed IUCN Advisory Committee on Indigenous/Traditional Peoples and Conservation which will begin to meet in 2001 to more directly address Indigenous Peoples concerns in the development and implementation of IUCN policies.

6. IITC representatives served as advisors to the other Indigenous delegations, and participated in drafting the Indigenous Peoples' joint declaration to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Subsidiary Bodies meetings in Lyon, France, September 2000. The Indigenous Peoples Summit on Climate Change directly preceding the Convention included Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from South America, North America, the Pacific. The Summit focused on ways to address the impacts of Climate Change on the human rights, ecosystems and ways of life of Indigenous Peoples, and strategies for working with governments and NGOs.

7. IITC delegates from Chile and Alaska participated in the Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP-6, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - the World Climate Summit, focussing on guidelines for implementation of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, in November 2000, the Hague Netherlands, with 7,000 participants from 182 governments, 323 intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations including IITC and other Indigenous representatives, attempted to reach global consensus on one of the 1997 Kyoto Protocols most controversial features, the incorporation of various market based Flexibility Mechanisms, as well as agreements on technology transfer, capacity building, domestic action and universal equity. The meeting ended with an impasse, and the parties decided to suspend COP-6 and request its President to seek advice on the desirability of resuming that session in May/June 2001 with the aim of completing work on negotiating texts and adopting a comprehensive and balanced package of decisions on all issues under the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

8. IITC delegates from the U.S., Panama, Ecuador and Guatemala participated in U.N. Commission on Human Rights Sixth Inter-Sessional Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples October , and the preparatory sessions of the Indigenous caucus, November 20 – December 1, 2000 Geneva, Switzerland. Over 150 Indigenous representatives from around the world met with states, successfully maintained the current text and built increased support among states for its eventual adoption by the UN General Assembly. IITC representatives were selected to serve as co-president of the caucus and chair of the report committee. Land and resources, culture and language rights, and Self-determination were focus issues of discussion this year. IITC continued to disseminate the results to build awareness and activism among Indigenous Peoples and tribal governments as well as non Indigenous NGOs, in preparation for the 6th session of the Working Group in November 2000.

IITC continued to work throughout the year in a variety of local, regional, national and international forums towards the full adoption of the U.N. Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a means of insuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights, lands, eco-systems, traditional ways of life and self-determination are fully recognized and protected under international law. IITC participated in all opportunities within the national, international and public arenas to gain support for the adoption of the current text of the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and promoted this international consensus document as a basis for developing, upholding and applying standards recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in all aspects of work in the UN system as well as in national level agencies and legal systems.

9. IITC staff served on the Indigenous Steering Committee, and an ITC delegate from Alaska participated in the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met in Seville, Spain, from 27-31 March 2000, and IV International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity preceding the Working Group.

IITC's representative was asked to write the preamble to the Indigenous declaration from the Forum, challenging certain provisions of the CBD stressing the need to integrate Indigenous values, rights and ideals into the Conventions' application. Positions presented by IITC and other Indigenous delegates called for sufficient time, participation and information to insure fully informed prior consultation and consent, full recognition of and respect for Indigenous Customary laws, recognition of other Indigenous Documents and Instruments such as the Draft Declaration for the Rights Of Indigenous Peoples, the Heart of the Peoples Declaration, etc., full participation in the establishment of guidelines, ethics and codes of conduct within the CBD process, and a moratorium on the patenting of life. IITC's delegate also participated in the Indigenous Women & Biodiversity group, focusing on the impacts the CBD on Indigenous women and roles, helping to draft the joint statement from this group which was presented at the government session.

10. IITC delegates participated in the 4th United Nations Intergovernmental Forum on Forests to develop of international policies on forest use, conservation and management, address impacts of forest conservation policies on forest - dwelling Indigenous Peoples and call for mechanisms to insure increased direct participation in the development of such policies on the national and international levels. IITC's delegation included forest Peoples from Alaska, British Columbia Canada, Panama, the Amazon basin, and California. IITC conducted an orientation session for new delegates, and co-coordinated a press conference and public briefing presenting Indigenous Peoples' positions entitled "Global Forest Crisis"; January 30 – February 11, UN, New York

11. In November 1999, two IITC representatives attended the World Intellectual Property roundtable on "Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge" (Geneva), and co-drafted the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus Statement presented at the session. In 2000, IITC continued communications with WIPO to finalize and disseminate the report from the November 1999 session.

12. IITC delegates from the US, Chile and Panama, including two youth representatives, participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations with emphasis on Land rights and Treaties, health and rights of Indigenous youth, the inclusion of mining and drilling issues as a focal point for next year's agenda, follow up to the UN Study on Treaties and Agreements, increasing the length of the WGIP session to two weeks to accommodate increased participation, and implications of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN system (July, UN Geneva). IITC delegates assisted in coordinating the Youth caucus and drafting

a joint statement for presentation on the floor, as well as interventions on Health of Indigenous Peoples, standard setting and Children and youth rights.

13. IITC delegates from the US, Chile, Mexico and Panama participated in the 52<sup>nd</sup> UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. IITC emphasized adoption of resolutions on human rights impacts of POPS, human rights situation in Mexico, violations of freedom of religion rights for Indian prisoners in the US, the Permanent Forum and the UN Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements, July – August 25 UN, Geneva

14. IITC's UN Liaison co-organized and facilitated for the second year a session for Indigenous Peoples attending the WGIP with the Work Bank representative to address policy changes regarding Indigenous Peoples i.e. the operative directive 4.20, July, Geneva. IITC has continued to be involved in consultations with the World Bank and Indigenous Peoples for their final review process for of 4.20, policy revision sessions coinciding with Indigenous presence at the NGO-GEF (Global Environmental Facility).

15. IITC NY Office Coordinator continued to participate on the Executive Committee and in general meetings of the U.N. NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples monthly, New York, including assisting in planning for the UN's International Day Of Indigenous Peoples Commemoration on August 9 -10, 2000.

16. IITC continued to serve, in a second three year term, as an NGO member of the International Subcommittee of the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, attending 2 NEJAC national meetings (May, Atlanta and December, Chicago), and participating in regular (1 – 2 month) conference calls addressing and making recommendations for U.S. policy on Environmental Justice. IITC's representative, Alberto Saldamando served on NEJAC's International Subcommittee and was selected in 2000 as its chair. Priorities for policy related discussions in 2000 included cross-border environmental justice, and endorsement and support for the adoption of effective international standards including the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, impacts of international trade policy and globalization. Meetings and dialogue sessions were arranged with representatives of the US government's office of Intergovernmental Affairs, a deputy US Trade representatives, a US State Department representative addressing multi lateral Development Banks including the World Bank, the GEF, the Office of International Affairs of the EPA, and US advisors on international matters reflected in International Conventions (CBD, POPS, Climate Change).

17. IITC assisted with the preparation and mentoring of delegates from affiliated communities from Alaska, Mexico and the US (including 3 former IITC mentees and grassroots affiliate representatives) participating in the third and fourth Inter-governmental Negotiation Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, (March and December 2000), meeting with states and NGO's to insure the strongest possible language for the Treaty which was adopted in December 2000, including work dialogue with states and NGOs to support total elimination and emphasize the precautionary principle rather than "acceptable risk".

18. IITC continued to participate as the Indigenous Peoples representative organization in the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion (follow up to IITC's participation in the August 1998 Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief) with a variety of human rights, faith and belief based organizations, ecumenical bodies, human rights agencies and UN experts, and to form alliances with other organizations and ecumenical bodies (i.e. Pastors for Peace, Inter- Religious

Foundation for Community Organization, Tandem Project, etc.) to further implementation of the Universal Declaration on Elimination of all forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief as applied to Indigenous Peoples rights, protection of sacred sites, issues of environmental racism, religious freedom right for Indigenous prisoners etc.

19. An IITC delegate participated in the UN Seminar on the Draft principles and guidelines for the Protection of the Heritage of Indigenous Peoples towards development of a UN Declaration, February – March, United Nations, Geneva, chaired by Madame Daes, Chairperson of the WGIP

20. IITC continued to work with the Yoemem Tekia Foundation, the Alianza Sin Fronteras and traditional Tohono O'odham representatives in Arizona to follow up on meetings in December 1999, Yaqui Reservation in Tucson Arizona, facilitated by IITC, with the US Justice and State Departments, as well as Mexican government officials in order to address and resolve ongoing problems faced by cultural and ceremonial leaders in crossing the US/ Mexico border for religious and cultural purposes, and US immigration policies and practices impacts on freedom of religion and culture for Indigenous Peoples whose traditional lands and Peoples are now divided by the international border.

21. IITC participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference to the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Discussions included issues of biological diversity of drylands, impacts of alien invasive species, agricultural ecosystems, benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources, and sustainable use of biological resources, May 15 - 26 Nairobi, Kenya

22. An IITC Youth representative participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women Beijing + 5 "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" prepcom (March, NY) and UN Special Sessions, including Indigenous women and youth caucuses, NGO preparatory meetings and an "International Indigenous Women's Forum on Beijing + 5", May 30 – June 9, UN, New York, where IITC staff delivered a presentation on the Draft Declaration and the history of Indigenous Peoples' work at the UN

23. IITC continued to participate in ongoing discussions with the OAS, states and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas at various meetings in the US and Guatemala to express our opposition to the process, which has excluded meaningful input of Indigenous Peoples, as well as its discriminatory content which limits the full recognition of Indigenous Peoples rights internationally, of the Organization of American States American Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

24. The IITC also continued to challenge bodies such as the UN Commission on Human Rights to formally recognize human rights impacts of toxic contamination that include birth defects, destruction of sacred sites and forced relocations, and to recognize the glaring inconsistencies in the current application of existing standards. Forced removal, for example, is defined as a crime in Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions and prohibited in time of war and civil conflict, but is carried out with impunity by states and corporations in the process of mining, drilling and deforestation activities.

### **3. Training, Networking, Alliance and Capacity-Building:**

**SUMMARY:** The IITC understands that the fundamental sacred right to self-determination affirms the right of each distinct Indigenous People to define for themselves and implement their own political status and their own economic, social and social and cultural development strategies

in the context of a common organizational mission. This understanding is the basis of IITC's work and relationships of IITC's with its growing number of affiliates and the many other Indigenous Peoples with whom IITC regularly works.

IITC's written "Guiding Principles" state that "Indigenous Peoples speak for themselves before the world arena". This fundamental principle of self-determination underlies IITC's work to build direct, effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in addressing issues and developing policies that affect their rights and survival.

In 2000, IITC continued to provide education, outreach, consultation, technical assistance and training to Indigenous tribes, communities, organizations, youth groups, networks and gatherings to build understanding of impacts of international policies on local struggles and concerns, mechanisms for redressing violations of their rights, and opportunities for their direct involvement in effective solutions.

IITC also prioritized coalition and strategic alliance-building, broad-based collaboration and networking with a wide variety of Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies to address issues of common concern, share information and coordinate organizational strategies.

IITC continued to network and develop coordinated strategies with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, agencies, NGO's and activist organizations to address issues of mutual concern such as human rights, protection of sacred sites and lands, biological diversity, self-determination, Treaties, " bio-piracy", toxic and nuclear contamination, sustainable development, impacts of globalization and international trade agreements.

IITC staff and representatives were speakers and presenters in a variety of community and organizational conferences and events at the invitation of Indigenous Peoples and other supportive organizations. Overall, an estimated 10,000 participants were reached directly by IITC's presentations at various gatherings and conferences. Many thousands more were reached through regular information dissemination via Indigenous and non-indigenous print, radio, video and electronic media.

Outreach, training and capacity building is carried out systematically through IITC's Mentorship Program for Leadership Development, which includes a component focusing on Indigenous Youth. These programs continued to provide one-of-a-kind, hands-on "Indian to Indian" training and capacity building in international human rights advocacy, activism and diplomacy, emphasizing links and impacts on local and grass roots issues of concern. Through the end of 2000, over 40 interns and mentees, including over 25 youth ages 14 to 30, have participated in IITC mentorship programs. Many have continued to be active representatives for their communities' issues locally, nationally and internationally as a result.

In 2000, several IITC former mentees have gone on to play key leadership roles in international standard setting, human rights and environmental justice work focusing on Cultural Rights, Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants, impacts of Trade Globalization, Forests Protection, Sustainable Development, Biological Diversity and Protection of Traditional Plant Knowledge, and Climate Change.

IITC's Indigenous Trading Company Program, based in Minneapolis, also provided technical assistance focusing on capacity building for sustainable development at the request of Indigenous producers of rice, coffee, cacao, buffalo meat, clothing and other Indigenous products. The ITC provided training and consultation focused on building capacity of Indigenous producers in

direct marketing and fair trade relationships, implementation of environmentally and culturally compatible value added processing, development of cooperative production and processing, and the realization of self-determination in economic policies and regulatory capacity.

**HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

1. IITC's Year 2000 International Conference, July 5 – 9 in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala, was attended by nearly 1000 representatives of IITC affiliates and other grass roots Indigenous communities, organizations, tribes and Nations from throughout Guatemala, the hemisphere and the world. In addition to the IITC (CITI) office in Guatemala, hosting organizations included, Comité Campesina del Altiplano, Defensoria Maya, National Coordinating Body of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA), Rigoberta Menchú Foundation, Oxlajuj Ajpop de los Ajq'ijab' (Mayan traditional spiritual leaders), Mayan Youth for Conscientious Objection, (Jóvenes Mayas por la objeción de conciencia), Black Organization of Guatemala (ONEGUA), and Association for Comprehensive Mam Development of Ixtahuacán, Huehuetenango.

The Conference focused on the following objectives: 1) To provide support for and reaffirm the need to continue building the Guatemalan peace process, as well as the decisive participation of Indigenous Peoples in that process 2) To become familiar with the way in which policies are developing in the States and among Indigenous Peoples of the world in matters concerning the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 3) To define follow-up strategies for the work of Indigenous Peoples on a world level, in order to consolidate strategies globally and within each country 4) To exchange political experiences among representatives of Indigenous Peoples participating in the Congress.

Resolutions and position statements addressed pressing matters of mutual concern such as environmental justice, human rights, international standards, cultural rights and freedom of religion, land rights and treaties, youth organizing, health, women and children's rights, and the reestablishment and strengthening of traditional governments and Indigenous legal systems. These consensus resolutions will provide the direction for IITC's work in 2000 and in 2001.

2. In 2000, IITC was among a small group of Indigenous NGO's from around the world which met together at two technical and strategy workshops, and took a collaborative leadership role in advising the broader Indigenous caucuses and organizations and spearheading an effective joint strategy and Workplan for working with states and the UN systems towards adoption of resolutions implementing the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples, (January, 2000, Copenhagen and July 2000, New York, coordinated by the NGO International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs and the Saami Council). IITC participated in ongoing e mail and teleconference communications, as well as in writing summaries presented to larger Indigenous caucus sessions at UN meetings addressing mandate, a regional representation format and location of the Forum, which provided invaluable assistance in moving the UN system forward in 2000 towards the full implementation of the Permanent Forum by 2002.

3. In 2000, the first group of IITC mentees from Alaska, Guatemala, Panama, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Hawaii, New York, California and Minnesota began and continued to participate "solo" in UN fora to effectively address concerns such as Human Rights, Intellectual Property issues, Environmental Justice, Children and Youth rights, Persistent Organic Pollutants, climate change, health, Sustainable Development, Cultural Rights, Racial Discrimination, Bio-Ethics and Bio-Diversity. IITC provided ongoing mentoring, technical assistance, consultation and UN credentials to insure the continued effective participation of these dynamic former-mentees.

In 2000, five new mentors continued to be trained from among IITC interns, staff, Board members, field representatives and youth representatives. Ongoing programs to continue "training the trainers" were also under development. New applications were received in 2000 from prospective mentees from Alaska, Guatemala, New Zealand and Panama.

4. In 2000, IITC's Bay Area Urban Indian Mentorship Program, implemented in 1997, provided ongoing educational, activism and community-based organizing opportunities for 7 more high school and college-age Indian youth in the Bay Area and Northern California, which has the third largest urban Indian population in the country. Hundreds more youth were reached through presentations by staff and by mentees at schools, youth groups and organizations as part of their training.

Youth mentees addressed human rights and environmental justice work in the context of local community concerns, including cultural and environmental impacts of the California Gold Rush (in response to the 1998 - 2000 State "celebration"), repatriation, and threats to local burial mounds and sacred sites, local impacts of toxic pollution and emissions, affirmative action and racial discrimination in educational, governmental and criminal justice institutions; misinformation about Indian history and cultures in schools, and impacts of current and proposed state and national legislation.

Presentations were made by the IITC Youth Coordinators as well as other IITC staff members to Bay Area high schools, colleges and educational programs such as Upward Bound and Casa Magdalena Mora Residential Theme Program at UC Berkeley, the University of San Francisco School of Law Center for Community and Legal Education, United Indian Nations, Oakland; Bay Area Indian Charter Schools, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, San Jose State University International Relations Student Club; Native American Youth Cluster, Oakland, Sequoia and Richmond High Schools, Youth Gang Intervention Collaborative (Oakland and Bay Area), on a monthly to bi-monthly basis throughout the year.

Training and hands-on experience for youth mentees include skills-building in research and community organizing networking and partnership-building through conferences, gatherings, and electronic communications; orientation to international human rights and standard-setting developments impacting Indigenous Peoples and their relevancy to issues of local concern; and input into the UN process.

5. Youth Mentees and youth representatives participated with IITC's delegations to the U.N. CHR's Sixth Inter-Sessional Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration For the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (November – December, Geneva); the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva, July), the UN Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, March/April), the Indigenous Environmental Network Conference (Texas, June 2000); the 2000 IITC Conference (Guatemala, July, 2000), the University of Minnesota Human Rights Resource Center "Educating for Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Training the Trainers conference, (Minnesota, August); and the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Seville, Spain, March), and the International Youth Parliament (Sydney Australia, October).

6. IITC was called upon to train, mentor, organize participation, inform, assist in strategy development, advocate for and represent key Indigenous Environmental Justice Networks and groups such as the Indigenous Environment Network, the Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, Rethinking Tourism Project, Eyak Preservation Council, Alaska

Community Action on Toxics, North American Indigenous Peoples Bio-diversity Project, the Committee on Indigenous Health and the Gwich' in Steering Committee.

Through participation on the National Council of the Indigenous Environmental Network, IITC disseminated information, contributed to building joint strategies and presented issues at international fora addressing issues such as banned pesticide use and export in Mexico, Central and South America; nuclear dumping and testing; impacts of mining and oil drilling; "biopiracy" and the commercialization of Indigenous peoples traditional plant knowledge and genetic material; military and commercial toxic waste dumping; the tie between indigenous peoples freedom of religion and protection of lands from contamination; impacts of climate change on traditional subsistence practices; impacts of trade policies and globalization; and various community-based struggles against land appropriation for resource exploitation.

IITC Staff, including youth representatives, facilitated, moderated and/or presented at plenary sessions and workshops on Globalization and the Environment, Youth in Environmental Organizing, facilitated and translated discussions between Indigenous grass roots representatives and a scientist regarding POPs studies in their communities, and conducted specific outreach for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to build participation. IITC staff, Board members and youth representatives attended June 2000. Indigenous Environmental Network Protecting Mother Earth Conference (June Brownsville, Texas).

7. IITC staff and other experienced representatives also provided ongoing on site training and orientation to many new Indigenous delegates representing community organizations attending international fora addressing human rights and environmental protection, enabling them to present their issues and utilize the complex UN system as effectively as possible.

8. IITC staff provided formal consultation, served as advisory council members or Board members for a variety of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, including: North American Indigenous Peoples' Bio-diversity Project, South West Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, Women's Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights Youth Advisory Board; Project Underground International Committee for Legal strategies to stop gold mining and the Gold Greed and Genocide Project (responding to the commemorations of the 150th anniversary of the California Gold Rush), Eyak Preservation Council, Phoenix Fire Communications, A.J. Muste Institute, National Native American Prisoners Rights Coalition, the American Genocide Project, United Methodist Church American Indian Ministries Program, Calvert Group Advisory Council for Social Investment, the Rethinking Tourism Project, American Civil Liberties Union Northern California affiliate, National Congress of American Indians Human Rights Committee; National Network of Immigrants Rights; Traditional Native Healing Community Advisory Council for the recognition and certification of traditional Native and Tribal Healers within the federally-operated Native Medical Center system, Anchorage Alaska. Indigenous Peoples Millennium Conference Steering Committee, University of Minnesota Human Rights Resource Center "Educating for Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples" towards developing a human rights high school curriculum project; Indigenous delegates preparing for participation in UN fora such as global Treaty making bodies addressing Climate Change and Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Indian tribal governments on an ongoing basis; conference calls and meetings as required throughout the year.

9. IITC staff and representatives were speakers and presenters in a variety of community and organizational conferences and events at the invitation of Indigenous Peoples and other supportive organizations. Overall, an estimated 12,000 participants were reached directly by IITC's presentations at various gatherings and conferences, including: Heartbeat of the Peoples

Workshop hosted by Gwich' in Steering Committee addressing international human rights standard setting and relationship to local struggles for Environmental Protection and sovereignty (January, Fairbanks, Alaska); Land and Water Conference (March, University of Oregon) addressing Sacred Sites, Freedom of Religion, Treaties and Environmental Justice, Racism; Indigenous delegates preparatory workshop for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Article 8(j) focusing on protection of Indigenous plant knowledge and bio-diversity relationships, Seville Spain, March; "Reweaving the Web of Life" multi-denominational conference on freedom of religion and the Environment (Carroll College, Billings, Montana, April); 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Protecting Mother Earth Indigenous Environmental Network Conference (Brownsville, Texas, June 14 – 17); Yucca Mountain Gathering, hosted by Western Shoshone Nation, against the US nuclear weapons testing and nuclear waste site waste site (Pu-ha-bah and Yucca Mountain, Nevada, April); Hawaii Institute for Human Rights Advanced Course and Training Program in Peace and Human Rights (June, Maui); Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and Globalization, (February, NYU, New York); Gore-Mbeki, US – Africa Bi-national Commission Workshop on Environmental Justice Lessons (May, Spellman College, Atlanta, GA); Pte Ole Omnicieye (Looking for Buffalo Meeting), to work on restoration of the Buffalo, (Sinte Gleska University, South Dakota, May); Seventh Generation Fund Conference on Sustainable Communities (August Wewoka, OK); UN Day of Indigenous Peoples activities (August 9 – 10, UN, New York), with workshops and presentations pertaining to the UN Global Conference Against Racism preparation; Peoples Dioxin Conference (Berkeley, CA, August); Gathering for Repatriation of Ishi and California Indian Cultural Rights, Yurok/Karuk (Hoopa, CA, September), International Indigenous workshop on the Underlying Principles of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Wellington NZ, September); Toxics in Alaska Forum on Environmental Justice (September, Anchorage Alaska); Indigenous Peoples Summit on Climate Change, (September, Lyon France); International Youth Parliament (Sydney, Australia, October); National Congress of American Indians annual meeting, International issues workshop presentation (November, Minneapolis); Building a Unified Strategy to End the Death Penalty Conference (San Francisco, CA, November); Making Our World, US follow up strategy session to the International Youth Parliament (Malibu California, December); International Congress for the Administration of Justice and Rights for Indigenous Peoples (Guatemala, December); International Conference of Indigenous Peoples on Conflict Resolution (Philippines, December); Women's Institute for Leadership Development workshops on the Third World Conference Against Racism preparations (San Francisco Bay Area, ongoing); Indigenous caucus sessions at UN fora (throughout the year); and monthly meetings of the Bay Area Indian Agency Representatives (BAIAR), including hosting the January, 2001 meeting.

10. In 2000, IITC initiated and maintained alliances, collaborative efforts, and affiliations with a wide variety of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, including: Green Peace, Alaska Community Action of Toxics, Rainforest Action Network, Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Military Toxics Network, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Indigenous Environmental Network, Project Underground, North American Indigenous Peoples Bio-Diversity Project, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Network, Gwich' in Steering Committee, International Subcommittee of the EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, the Calvert Investment Group Special Concerns Advisory Council, Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Rainforests, World Council of Churches, National Congress of American Indians, National Moratorium to Abolish the Death Penalty, Women's Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights, Inter-tribal Friendship House, the National Congress of American Indians, Indian People Organizing for Change, American Indian Public Charter School, College and University Student Groups such as the Native American Recruitment and Retention Center at UC Berkeley, and S.K.I.N.S. at San Francisco State University, Youth United for Community Action, Community Action Now,

National Native American Prisoners Rights Coalition, the American Civil Liberties Union, Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, American Indian Law Alliance, Sinte Gleska University and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Amnesty International, Nordic Saami Council, the Amazon Coalition, DANA ( a Mexican NGO providing consultation to Indigenous communities in social and economic Development) and the Asesoría Técnica de Cultivos Orgánicos (ATCO, Chiapas Mexico), Land O' Lakes international development and Farmer to Farmer Programs, Intertribal Bison Cooperative fifty-two American Indian Tribes, Sinte Gleska University, the Saami Council, the Maori Legal Services, International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs, and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

11. IITC delegates from Guatemala, the US and Panama attended the Workshop on the Underlying Principles of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples hosted by the Kuna Youth Movement and the Maori Legal Services, and co-coordinated by IITC Board member Estebancio Castro, from 8-10 September 2000, in Wellington, Aotearoa (New Zealand). Indigenous delegates from every region of the world drafted a document of Proposed Strategies for the Adoption of the Draft Declaration, which was disseminated, discussed and approved with minor revisions and additions by the entire Indigenous caucus at the 6<sup>th</sup> UN Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration (November, Geneva). An additional strategy proposal for strengthening the work of the Indigenous caucus at the Intersessional Working Group was also drafted, and approved by the caucus, which represents over 1000 Indigenous delegations from around the world.

IITC continued to disseminate information on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to tribes and grass roots communities, and worked to educate and gain support from non-Indigenous organizations, ecumenical bodies and NGO's for its adoption in its current text.

12. Organizing and sponsoring of annual community sunrise gatherings in honor of the Day of Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of the Western Hemisphere (Oct. 12) and "Unthanksgiving Day" Nov. 24, on Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Bay, regularly attended by over 5000 participants in total.

13. IITC continued to discuss and develop strategies with IITC affiliates, Indigenous communities and NGO's regarding response to the final report of the UN Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements presented in the WGIP in Geneva, in July 1999; dissemination of the report and strategy discussions regarding analysis and implementation of recommendations began immediately.

14. Indian producers, communities, coops and families were directly involved in the development of capacity building strategies coordinated by the IITC Indigenous Trading Company in the US, Mexico and Guatemala. In Guatemala co-ops and associations from 6 highland districts have been directly involved in launching the Cooperative Development Program coordinated by IITC's Guatemala Office in conjunction with the ITC in Minneapolis. IITC organized and conducted 2 community roundtables (Altaverapaz, October, and Huehuetenango, December) attended by 85 representatives of 40 Indigenous cooperatives. Focus was on strengthening the cooperative movement, which had been severely impacted by years of conflict and repression, and developing capacity for increased production and direct marketing of products such as coffee and clothing.

15. IITC disseminated information and provided training about the international standards insuring equal rights, protection racism and racial discrimination, including the Convention for the Elimination of Racism Discrimination (CERD), the Universal Declaration on Human Rights,

and the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Third World Conference, as well as their relevancy to local organizing and issues, is currently a key component of IITC's efforts to build national and international solidarity and alliances, as well as to insure full participation of Indigenous Peoples in the final outcomes of the WCAR.

16. IITC's General Counsel was designated to serve as a member of the Executive Planning Committee for the National Peoples of Color Environmental Leadership Summit Conference (planned for fall 2001), assessing environmental justice issues in the US and globally; regular meetings, e mial exchanges and conference calls throughout 2000

17. IITC began coordinating and conducting outreach internationally in coordination with IITC Mario Board member Hinewirangi Kohu for the 21<sup>st</sup> International Indian Treaty Council Conference planned from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, 2002 in Aotearoa (New Zealand), hosted by the Maori organisations and communities of Kirikiriroa and Tauranga Moana.

The theme of the conference will be "Traditional Culture is Our Right". In September, IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen and Guatemala Office Coordinator Juan Leon Alvarado visited the leadership and community members of the hosting marae, conducted the necessary ceremonial and organizational protocols, and initiated outreach and public relations for the first phase of organizing.

#### **4) Creating Mechanisms for Access to Decision-Making:**

**SUMMARY:** IITC worked in coordination with communities, NGO's and UN bodies to create and strengthen opportunities for direct, formal and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in international standard-setting activities at the UN's Environmental Program, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the CSD, Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, World Conservation Congress (IUCN), the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, the Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Global Youth Forum, World Intellectual Property Organization and other relevant fora.

2000 saw major concrete and unprecedented advances towards the establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN system with a broad mandate and the direct, full and real participation of Indigenous Peoples. Achievements this year resulted from years of concerted efforts by IITC and other Indigenous NGO's. The Permanent Forum presents an historic opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to more effectively and directly monitor critical situations and threats to the human rights, lands, ecosystems, development, cultures, health and survival of our communities around the world, and to make recommendations to the UN and its member states for concrete, effective and timely solutions.

IITC's central role in the bodies such as Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Bio-Diversity, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and its subsidiary body the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, resulted in growing international recognition of Indigenous expertise in these vital areas and promoted the creation and implementation of new structures for effective Indigenous input.

Significant developments took place this year in the coordination of formal Indigenous participation in key UN bodies as a direct result of IITC's efforts for the full participation of Indigenous Peoples in policy discussions addressing their concerns, for example in the work of

WHO, IUCN, the CSD and UNDP and work on the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

1 IITC delegates from the US, Chile, Guatemala and Panama participating directly in presenting Indigenous Peoples' views, addressing governments and UN bodies to bring about the adoption of the resolutions in 2000 by the UN Commission on Human Rights resolutions (March), UN Economic and Social Council (July) and the UN General Assembly (December 2000) towards the establishment of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues within the UN system. Efforts were furthered by participation in international technical and strategy meetings with key Indigenous representatives this year (January in Copenhagen, July in New York and November in Geneva) as well as intensive discussions with states and other coordinated efforts at UN bodies.

IITC delegates also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ad Hoc Intersessional Working Group on the establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN system, (February, Geneva) and the Substantive Session of the UN Economic and Social Council (July, New York) to move consideration of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues ahead within the UN system.

IITC worked throughout the year to achieve in the final historic resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. These resolutions include formal recognition of Indigenous Peoples as independent member experts of the Permanent Forum and insure that Indigenous Peoples will be directly involved in the nomination process of 8 Indigenous experts members.

2. At the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights at in Geneva, Switzerland March 20 – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000, IITC credentialed 11 Indigenous delegates from the U.S. (Arizona, New Mexico, Minnesota, California, and Oklahoma), Guatemala and Panama, enabling them to participate directly in and address the Commission regarding their critical human rights concerns.

3. In December 2000 IITC's Executive Director was asked to be part of a newly formed Indigenous Steering Committee for IUCN, to insure that Indigenous perspectives are fully reflected in the development and application of IUCN positions and policy statements. Their first meeting will take place in the spring of 2001.

4. In 2000 IITC provided credentials, as per IITC representation policies and procedures, to over 35 Indigenous representatives in international fora where the issues and struggles of their communities could be effectively addressed

5. IITC continued to disseminate information about the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration and non-governmental organization (NGO) application procedures to build participation, and worked to insure full Indigenous participation at all levels and bodies in which the Draft Declaration is addressed. This includes maintaining the transparency of all discussions and the consensus process in which Indigenous Peoples are full participants at the UN Intersessional Working Groups on the Draft Declaration .

5. An IITC representative was re-selected to serve as one of two Indigenous representatives on the CSD NGO Steering Committee (third one-year term, May 2000 - May 2001), with a focus on coordinating outreach to build participation in the year 2000 CSD Session by Indigenous Peoples (focus on sustainable agriculture, forests and land management), and the year 2001 session focusing on sustainable energy and climate change. IITC's New York Office Coordinator Carol

Kalafatic was re-selected as a member of the CSD NGO caucus on sustainable agriculture and food systems, and conducted ongoing outreach throughout the year activities to build participation of grass-roots representatives/ experts in CSD 2000 and 2001 (focus on sustainable energy and climate change).

6. As a follow-up to IITC involvement in coordination of the UN Development Program Roundtable discussion and briefing with Indigenous Peoples to improve UNDP's response to Indigenous concerns in their programs and policies (October 1999), IITC's NY Office continued with going correspondence with UNDP regarding their Policy on Indigenous Peoples, being drafted as guidelines or Principles of Engagement as an advocacy tool to present to governments

7. IITC staff made presentations to UN Department of Public Information/NGO Briefing, April, UN Headquarters, New York, NY, on Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development and Indigenous Caucus statement from CSD-8 Intersessional; and 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference: Workshop on "Human Rights as the Foundation for Global Solidarity", August, on human rights, collective rights and the Right to Development

8. IITC continued to take a leadership role working with the World Health Organization and the planning process to finalize the criteria and terms of reference for an WHO Indigenous official advisory group to encouraging exchange of views, broaden participation, advance new opportunities for dialogue, network and establish links between official institutions, governments, NGO's, and Indigenous organizations working toward the eventual adoption of a Declaration on the Health Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN level.

9. IITC Youth Representative attended the steering committee session for planning of the Global Youth Conference (August 2001), and in the UN Interagency meeting on Youth, February, UN in New York, calling for greater support for Indigenous youth participation in the Global Youth Forum process.

10. IITC continued work to insure that Indigenous Peoples are able to have an active, formal role in negotiations sessions for the drafting, implementation and development of protocols for the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Persistent Organic Pollutants.

##### **5. Communications and Information-Dissemination:**

**SUMMARY:** IITC firmly believes that advancing the international understanding of human rights to include the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, and broadening the equal and on discriminatory application of human rights principles and standards advances the enjoyment of human rights and environmental justice for all Peoples

In 2000 IITC educated, shared information and built working relationships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, organizations, agencies and the general public and through print, broadcast media and electronic information dissemination methods. IITC utilized communications as an integral component for accountability to its affiliates, and for the development of coordinated national and international strategies and positions in response to common concerns. In 2000 these included racial discrimination issues and preparations for the Third World Conference, impacts of WTO policies and trade agreements, and responses to urgent human rights violations.

This entire area of communications as a major component of accountability and information sharing will continue as a priority for IITC's development in 2001. A comprehensive

communications strategy including resource development, capacity building and strategic program planning, will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting in early 2001.

We have also seen increased interest by grass roots Indigenous Peoples for participation in these and other bodies where the direct links between international policy development and the concerns of grass roots communities can be used to call attention to and build support for local struggles.

**HIGHLIGHTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

1. IITC human rights crisis response strategies expanded the use of electronic communications links, and networking for rapid information gathering, complaints filing, urgent actions and notifications of the need for solidarity responses. Newsgroups and list serves in which IITC participated regularly included the Tebbetha Indigenous Newsgroup, UN CSD General List server, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems List server, the Indigenous Health Coalition, the International Union for Conservation of Nature Indigenous Advisory Group, International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs, and the Conferencia Mundial Contra la Tortura. In addition, IITC helped to create electronic information exchange networks pertaining to the Permanent Forum, the Draft Declaration, Climate Change and other critical areas of concern.

In addition, IITC regularly used extensive electronic mail and web site contacts to distribute urgent actions bulletins, interventions, statements, declarations and updates from IITC affiliates and other Indigenous organizations throughout the world through increased electronic networking with a growing number of servers, web sites and email networks reaching both Indigenous communities and the general public.

2. IITC focused attention and built community and public awareness about the critical issues of racially based discrimination for Indigenous Peoples in the US and elsewhere, in the context of national and international preparations for the upcoming UN Third World Conference Against Racism. In November, IITC Executive Director was invited to appear on national radio "Native America Calling" with a representative of the US White House Commission coordinating US government participation in the WCAR to debate US positions on Indigenous rights in the context of racism discrimination and international human rights standards.

3. IITC continued to distribute positions statements, educational information and reports for wide distribution through newspapers and newsletters reaching both Indigenous communities and the general public, including the newsletter of the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Rethinking Tourism Newsletter, the UN Chronicle, Indian Country Today, newsletter of the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Rethinking Tourism Newsletter, the UN Chronicle, Indian Country Today, Mother Jones and a variety of other publications,

4. Major articles were written and disseminated in various publications by IITC staff and representatives, including: "Indigenous Peoples and Globalization" for United Methodist Women's Response Magazine, October 2000 Issue, The OAS Interamerican Indigenous Institute Magazine and various university and community publications.

5. IITC played a key role in drafting, co-drafting and organizing participation in gatherings that produced key declarations on the interrelated issues of imposed development, globalization, environmental protection, human rights and self-determination in recent years, which continued to be key organizing and information-sharing tools in 2000. These include: the Indigenous Peoples' Seattle Declaration on the WTO (1999); No Patenting of Life Declaration to the World

Intellectual Property Organization (1999); the Albuquerque Declaration on Climate Change (1998); the Heart of the Peoples Declaration on Biological Diversity (1997); and the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (beginning in 1982, with discussion ongoing).

IITC continued to distribute these documents in 2000 at gatherings, conferences and UN fora, and to promote their use in education, organizing and international policy development.

6. Reconstruction and upgrading of IITC's Web Page, [www.treatycouncil.org](http://www.treatycouncil.org), including development of a new format to make it user friendly, begin in November 2000, and will continue through early 2001. A skilled Indigenous consultant was identified to reconstruct the current web site, and to continue to post information and maintain the site throughout 2001.

7. IITC staff participated in radio programs on "National Native America Calling", Pacifica Radio Network, KPOO, KILI, Seventh Generation Fund Native Pulse Radio (Northern California), WBAI "Circle of Red Nations" program and various other Indigenous, alternative and mainstream radio programs in U.S. and Canada addressing biological diversity, religious freedom and human rights, youth organizing, the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (IITC coordinated 2<sup>nd</sup> annual live radio show from Geneva during the Intersessional Working Group), impacts of the WTO and Globalization, Bioethics and Indigenous preparations and positions for the Third World Conference Against Racism.

8. IITC circulated interventions, urgent action bulletins and position statements on a variety of critical issues through increased electronic networking with a growing number of servers, affiliated web sites and email networks.

9. IITC provided advisory assistance, arranged for the participation of Indigenous presenters from Alaska, Guatemala and Mexico, assisted with opportunities for presentations and distribution, and provided general organizational support for the development and filming of the IEN/Greenpeace award-winning documentary on the impacts of Persistent Organic Pollutants on Indigenous Peoples, homelands communities (public showings began in October, 1999); in 2000 IITC provided contacts for distribution of the POPs video, in both English and Spanish

10. A component for the youth mentorship program in computer communications and networking was implemented in the summer of 1999 and continued in 2000. This area of capacity building will be a focal point of training in the future.

11. New computers with e mail capacity were installed in IITC's New York and Guatemala Offices, and updated software was purchased for the Alaska Office, and resources are being identified for funding of new computer equipment for the IITC San Francisco Office. Training of staff was also ongoing, and will remain a focus in 2001. Two additional staff members of IITC became versed in email communications in 2000.

### **C. INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

1. The IITC fiscal management team and cash flow management plan, formally adopted for the first time November, 1997, continued to be extremely successful in addressing IITC's fiscal planning and fiscal management needs, with excellent results for the organization. IITC's overall fiscal situation continued to improve in 2000. Basic expenses were able to be met with no new debts accumulated.

Prior debts have been retired, and IITC is now debt free. Three full, unqualified fiscal CPA audits for fiscal years 1997, 1998 and 1999 have been completed in accordance with the most rigorous auditing standards, enabling IITC application for participation in the combined Federal, state and United Way workplace giving campaigns (IITC was accepted for campaigns in 1999, 2000 and 2001). An annual audit for each subsequent fiscal year is planned.

2. In May 2000 IITC Board of Directors seated Ms. Jackie Warledo as Board Treasurer, and at the same meeting implemented a Board fiscal committee for the first time. Ms Warledo brings considerable strategic and fiscal planning skills, building confidence that improvements will continue to be made organizationally in these areas. In November 2000, Ms. Warledo submitted an internal capacity building and long term organizational development plan to the Executive Committee of the Board for consideration 2001, which includes training and strategic planning focusing on broad based resource development. Efforts will also be made by Jackie, working with a newly established Board financial committee, to more consistently involve the Board of Directors in IITC's fundraising and development efforts.

3. The hiring in May 2000 of an Office Manager/Youth Program Assistant, Mr. Samuel Heredia, with considerable organization skill as well as extensive experience in youth training and supervision, helped to address a critical problem by assuming some of the basic administrative task as well as youth program coordination responsibilities in the San Francisco Office. This provided the IITC Bay Area Mentorship Program with the benefits of additional staff time, and also allowed the human rights program staff in the office more time to respond to critical human concerns and requests for assistance, planning, preparations and follow up for international delegations, preparation of interventions and other core human rights program functions.

#### **D. EVALUATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

IITC's member affiliates include over 100 organizations, tribes and communities. IITC's member affiliates include over 100 organizations, tribes and communities. Affiliated Indigenous communities have direct input into the planning, implementation and evaluation of IITC's programs, priorities, policies and positions by participating in Treaty conferences and on the Board of Directors, which consists of affiliated Indigenous community representatives from the Americas and the Pacific Islands. The Board meets in person once or twice a year, and more often via teleconference.

IITC affiliates and other impacted communities made direct requests and submissions for inclusion in IITC's UN interventions, and contribute position statements and urgent action complaints throughout the year. Grass roots affiliate representatives actively participated in IITC's delegations to international gatherings, speaking on behalf of their communities' concerns.

At the annual Treaty Conferences, policy statements and resolutions are adopted by consensus. These provide direction for IITC's Program work throughout the year, and are integrated into the IITC annual Workplan.

IITC's Year 2000 International Conference in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala, in July was attended by nearly 1000 representatives of IITC affiliates and other grass roots Indigenous communities, organizations, tribes and Nations from throughout Guatemala, the hemisphere and the world. Resolutions and position statements addressing pressing matters of mutual concern including environmental protection, human rights, international standards, cultural rights and freedom of religion, land rights and treaties, youth organizing, health, women and children's rights, and the reestablishment and strengthening of traditional governments and Indigenous legal

systems, were adopted by consensus. These resolutions provided the direction for IITC's overall program work on a variety of issues in the last half of 2000, and in 2001.

Evaluation is ongoing throughout the year, with completion and dissemination of required travel reports (which include a section for evaluation and recommendations for follow up) from staff, field representatives, Board members, youth representatives and mentees for each representation and/or training experience. The 2000 general and project workplans, approved by the IITC Board of Directors, provided the guideline for evaluation of program work and accomplishments in terms of designated program objectives, projected activities and timelines.

Staff members conducted regular evaluations based on a review of stated program and project objectives and timelines, together with the Executive Director. The IITC Board of Directors is responsible for overall evaluation of IITC's programmatic work, based on the Executive Director, staff, office coordinators and travel/representation reports, as well as in depth discussions at annual Board meetings.

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*" ... Somewhere in this world I want my Indian People to be heard, no matter how small a group they are. Everyone has a right to be who they are ... "*

*Phillip Deere  
Muskogee Creek Spiritual Leader*