

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

Development Abilities at the World Bank

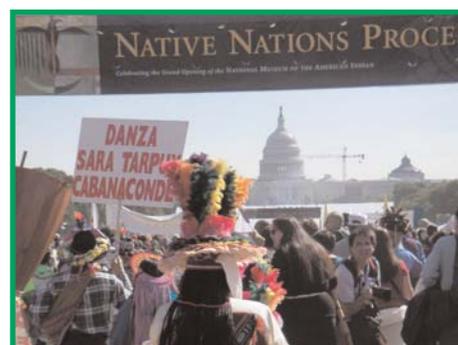
The IAF exhibited photographs documenting its responsive approach to disabled people's organizations at the World Bank's Conference on Disabilities and Inclusive Development held Nov. 30—Dec. 1 in Washington. IAF-supported activities portrayed in the photos (by Michael Cozzi, Mitchell Denburg, Faith Mitchell, Miguel Sayago and Sean Sprague) related to prevention, education, rehabilitation and job development. IAF program staff assistant Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías coordinated the exhibit of photos, some of which had originally been published with his feature "Development Abilities" in the 2004 issue of Grassroots Development. The exhibit is available at <www.iaf.gov>.

Keynote speakers included World Bank president James Wolfensohn; Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa); Luis Gállego, Ecuador's ambassador to the United Nations; Dr. Catherine Le Galès-Camus, assistant director of the World Health Organization; and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. The 600 conference participants included World Bank staff, donor representatives, disability activists and development professionals, who attended panel discussions and browsed displays on state-of-the-art adaptive technologies and best practices for inclusive development.

National Museum of the American Indian Opening

The IAF sponsored the participation of 45 representatives of former grantees and other indigenous groups from Latin America in the Sept. 19-27 celebration inaugurating the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington. Smithsonian Institution secretary Lawrence M. Small, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) and Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo addressed thousands at the opening procession. "This new museum, visually stunning inside and out, is a beautiful blend of old and new, nature and technology, symbolism and significance. It's a living tribute to the First Americans," Small said. "Yet, this museum is much more than a celebration of the past: it's an ongoing living testimony to the vitality of native cultures."

The festival following the ceremonies featured contemporary and traditional displays by more than 300 performers and craftspeople. Among them were scissor dancers from Peru's Ccanto tribe and folk ensembles from Taquile, Peru, and Tarabuco and Jalq'a, Bolivia. Their performances were introduced to the crowds on the Mall throughout the week by Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia and Colombia and an internationally recognized expert on Andean indigenous peoples. Marden Paniza, of Bannaba dancers, thanked the IAF for its support and the group's first performance outside Panama. The IAF also supported Brazilian Suyá dancers and Guatemalan marimba makers who demonstrated their work. Visit <www.si.edu/nmai> for more on the celebration or the museum.



IAF grantees walking in the processional towards the U.S. capital for the NMAI opening celebration.

Heidi Smith

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Grantee Awards

In September, IAF grantee Asociación Consejo de Mujeres Mayas de Desarrollo Integral (CMM) won second place in the competition "Apoyando a quienes apoyan," literally "supporting those who support others," sponsored by Fundación Juan Bautista Gutiérrez, a Guatemalan foundation that works with health and education projects. With its 2001 IAF grant, CMM is assisting nine rural communities around San Cristóbal, Totonicapán, with improving health conditions, particularly of women and small children.

IAF Guatemalan grantee Asociación Museo Comunitario Rabinal Achi presented two documentaries in the ICARO Film Festival. The grantee is working in the municipality of Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, to develop educational videos and CD-ROM materials on cultural heritage and eco-tourism. For more information, visit <www.festivalicaro.com>.

Grantee News

Brazil

Representatives from IAF grantee Círculo Olympio Marques (COLYMAR) traveled to the West African island state of São Tomé and Príncipe with an official delegation promoting small Afro-Brazilian businesses last summer. COLYMAR was also invited by the IAF to participate in the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation meeting in São Paulo in April. With its IAF award, COLYMAR is conducting a grassroots assessment and compiling a directory of businesses owned by African descendants in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

Oded Grajew, of former IAF Brazilian grantee ETHOS, presented the findings from an IAF-funded project at the International Seminar on Development, Equality and Inclusion held Sept. 15-16 in Bogota. The seminar was sponsored by the president of Colombia, the municipalities of Antioquia and Medellín, UNESCO, and Compensación Familiar de Antioquia (COMFAMA), a Colombian NGO.

Bolivia

Veronica Cereceda, director of IAF grantee Fundación ASUR, was presented Bolivia's prestigious Gunnar Mendoza Cultural Award on Dec. 14 by President Carlos Mesa. She is the first person working in grassroots development to receive the award. Cereceda and ASUR were highlighted in IAF representative Kevin Healy's book *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001) for their social entrepreneurship in cultural heritage.

El Salvador

IAF grantee Asociación Fundación para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Comunal de El Salvador (CORDES) has organized 100 milk producers selling to milk processors, which helped raise milk prices in the region by approximately 12 percent in 2004. A similar pattern occurred when IAF grantee APAEB organized sisal farmers

in the Brazilian Northeast. In both cases, the economic benefit accrued to all producers in the region, not just IAF beneficiaries.

Ecuador

Movimiento Mi Cometa's successful lobbying efforts focused the local government on basic sanitation needs. The youth-led campaign of peaceful marches, jingles, press engagement and negotiations with the municipality of Guayaquil concluded with the mayor's guarantee to build a much needed sewer system in the community of El Guasmo Sur. The lack of an appropriate system has been identified by the residents as their main problem and the source for higher rates of infectious disease in the area, as well as unpleasant odors. The public works project will benefit approximately 150,000 individuals. Given the success of its sewer campaign, Mi Cometa has proposed a planning council that would include local residents and representatives from business and civil society.

Mexico

The IAF sponsored the attendance of three representatives of Mexican grantee organizations at the International Symposium on Community Foundations, the first global meeting of community foundation practitioners hosted by Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmakers Support (WINGS) in Berlin, Germany, Dec. 2-4. Deputy vice president for programs Marcy Kelley traveled with the representatives from grantees Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad en Tijuana, Fundación Comunitaria de la Frontera Norte and Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense.

Grantee Resources

The World Bank is calling for proposals for its Development Marketplace 2005: Innovations for Livelihoods in a Sustainable Environment. A total of \$3 million will be awarded, with \$150,000 the maximum amount awarded for any single proposal. Innovative international development ideas may be submitted thru Jan. 21, 2005. Finalists will be announced on March 30 and presented June 6-7 at the Marketplace Competition and Knowledge Forum. For more information, e-mail dminfo@worldbank.org or visit <www.developmentmarketplace.org>.

The Rockefeller Foundation is offering six resident fellowships for 2005-2006 at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Fellows will work to define the economic dimensions of cultural heritage. The deadline for applying is Jan. 15, 2005. For further information, visit <www.folklife.si.edu/opportunities/fellowships_RF.html>

The IAF is organizing deliberative democracy workshops for 2005 with the Inter-American Democracy Network, a current grantee. Each workshop will be hosted by a local institution offering space, support staff and an interest in becoming a regional center for training moderators for community deliberation. IAF grantees and IADN members will be invited to participate in the workshops. For information about hosting or participating in one of the workshops log into <www.redinter.org/login.aspx> and click on *Services and Forum*.

Conferences

Latin Americas Studies Association's International Congress, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 7-9

More than 3,000 professionals participated in LASA's academic forum. The IAF- sponsored workshop on the exchange of knowledge, skills, ideas and technology between migrants and their communities of origin included Katharine Andrade Eekhoff of Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Sandra Nichols of the California Institute for Rural Studies, Robert Smith of Barnard College and IAF representative Jill Wheeler.

The IAF also hosted a reception and exhibited photos from Making their Way, which can be viewed on the IAF's Web site by clicking on photo essay. The exhibit is available on loan through Mark Caicedo (mcaicedo@iaf.gov).

RedEAmérica General Assembly, Caracas, Venezuela, Oct. 25-26

The RedEAmérica corporate foundation network held its general assembly at the corporate offices of Fundación Polar, the general secretariat since 2003. Members discussed learning and training programs, the role of the general secretariat, RedEAmérica's global fund, a strategic plan, and the strengthening and growth of the network.

Workshops and Meetings

IAF Research Workshop, Cordoba, Argentina, Aug. 4-5

Representatives from the IAF's Office of Evaluation and the Getulio Vargas Foundation and IAF's data verifiers presented their research on indicators of intangible results of IAF funding. This group met with more than 30 RedEAmérica representatives to review indicators for evaluating RedEAmérica's projects.

The Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Mexico City, Mexico, Sept. 27-29

IAF grantee Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía (CEMEFI), in collaboration with the IDB, the government of Mexico, the IAF and Alianza para la RSE (ALIARSE), organized the Third Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility. Fifteen representatives of IAF grantees attended and IAF president David Valenzuela chaired the final panel on the future of emerging markets. Go to <www.csramericas.org> for the conference publication and presentations.

The Second Conference of Salvadorans Residing Abroad, Washington DC. Oct. 8-10

More than 300 Salvadoran leaders, entrepreneurs, academics and members of hometown associations from throughout the U.S. and from Canada, Australia, Sweden, Germany and other countries participated in 25 panels and discussions on topics that included migration, culture, trade, economic development, civics and youth. The IAF sponsored a panel on economic development and supported the participation of several women from El Salvador. Salvadoran president Antonio Saca was the keynote speaker.

Local Development Trainers Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay, Dec. 1-4

Ramon Daubon, David Valenzuela and representatives of more than 32 institutions, including six social investment funds from Latin America and the Caribbean, attended this seminar organized by former IAF grantees Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH) of Uruguay; Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) of El Salvador; and Federación de Asociaciones Centros Educativos para la Producción Total (FACEPT) of Argentina.

Decentralization, Local Initiatives and Citizenship Research Seminars, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dec. 17

The IAF is cooperating with the Woodrow Wilson Center on a seminar series on local governance and civic participation. The first meeting, held Dec. 17, was organized by Enrique Peruzzoti of the Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires. The second, scheduled for February, is being organized by Roberto Laserna of the Universidad Mayor de San Simón in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Contact Ramon Daubon, IAF vice president for programs, for more information



The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the United States government that provides grants to non-governmental and community-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean for innovative, sustainable and participatory self-help programs. The IAF primarily funds partnerships among grassroots and nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments, directed at improving the quality of life of poor people and strengthening participation, accountability and democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF also shares its experiences and the lessons it has learned.

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Guest Speakers

Deepa Narayan, senior advisor to the poverty reduction and economic management network of the World Bank, and her team spoke to the IAF staff on Aug. 24.

Teddy Nemeroff, project coordinator for Sustained Dialogues at the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) in Pretoria, spoke on his sustained dialogues methodology on Sept. 3.

On Sept. 24, Michael Shifter, vice president for policy at the Inter-American Dialogue as well as adjunct professor at Georgetown University and a former IAF representative, spoke on the Andean countries based on his September article for *Foreign Affairs*, "Breakdown in the Andes." Read the article for more information.

On Sept. 23, Rosario Quispe, president of "Warmi Sayajunqo" women's association, a current IAF grantee, was among a group of indigenous leaders from four Argentine provinces visiting the U.S. at the invitation of the Department of State. The group met with U.S. government officials, representatives of tribal

governments, businesses, academic institutions and with employees of U.S. and international organizations working with indigenous peoples.

On Oct. 13, Greg Robison spoke to the IAF staff about the new initiatives of the RedEAmérica network. Founded in 2002, the network now has 53 members in 12 countries and plans for further expansion.

Sonia Rocha, a researcher with the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Brazil, presented findings from pilot evaluations of 10 projects on Oct. 14-15. The IAF's Office of Evaluation randomly selected former grant projects to examine further various measures of sustainability and IAF involvement in grant management.

On Nov. 3, Vanderly Scarabeli, a member of Brazil's Landless Worker Movement's National Leadership Committee, spoke to the IAF staff on his involvement with communities and Brazil's Workers' Party. Marselha Gonçalves-Margerin, a recent graduate of American University who studied the movement, also attended and assisted with translation.

IAF Publications

Grassroots Development 2004 was printed in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The 2003 issue was reprinted in English and Spanish. All journals in English, Spanish and Portuguese published between 1977 and 1994 are being scanned and converted to PDF files for posting on the Web. The IAF has a new brochure on its work with communities of African descent. To receive a free IAF publication, please send your full postal address and the publication desired to publications@iaf.gov.



Media Round-up

On Dec. 3, *La Nación*, an Argentine daily, described new recycling services offered to residents of Palermo, a Buenos Aires neighborhood, by IAF grantee Cooperativa de Provisión de Servicios para Recolectores "El Ceibo." With IAF's support, El Ceibo is training members and partners in all aspects of recycling and is buying equipment, including vehicles, for better collection of sorted materials and more efficient overall operations. For the article, visit www.lanacion.com.ar.

On Sept. 9, *La Prensa*, a Nicaraguan daily, described a farmers market developed by IAF grantee Consorcio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de Ticuantepe (CODESOS) and partner organization PROCESOS to increase farmers' incomes by eliminating the need for middlemen and by attracting tourists to the area. Log into www.laprensa.com.ni/cgi-bin/print.pl?id=especiales-20040909-07 to read the article.

IN PRINT

The September issue of *Revista Envío*, a Nicaraguan news magazine, highlighted the work of IAF grantee Union de Cooperativas SOPPEXCCA with fair trade coffee. SOPPEXCCA, a group of 12 cooperatives in the department of Jinotega, is using its IAF grant to augment coffee production and promote domestic sales and exports. For the article, visit www.envio.org.ni/articulo.php?id=2470.

Manuel Arango, president of CEMEFI, an IAF grantee and founding member of RedEAmérica, is featured in the December 2004 issue of *Alliance*, a British publication for grantmakers and civil society representatives. Read the article at www.allavida.org/alliance.

Useful Links

Inter-American Democracy Network's INFORID is a Web site and e-mail news service providing information on the activities of member organizations and other NGOs. A recent IAF grantee, IADN has more than 3,000 member organizations promoting transparency, participation in hemispheric processes, social responsibility, civic education, and stronger civil society organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Log onto www.redinter.org/inforid to register for updated e-mails.

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Board of Directors

In July, President Bush appointed to the IAF board Roger W. Wallace, president and CEO of Investamex, an investment and consulting firm focusing on business opportunities in Mexico and Latin America; Nadine M. Hogan, president of Hogan Associates International, a marketing and management consultant firm with offices in Alexandria, Vir., and Miami, Fla.; and Jack C. Vaughn, Jr., an independent oil and gas producer and managing director of Vaughn Petroleum Ltd. The board met in October and November in Arlington.



Wallace and Daubon with Bento Rubião, coordinator Ricardo de Gouvea outside of Rio in the ipiiba community.

Wallace visited Brazil in November. In Rio de Janeiro, he met with representatives from Fundação Bento Rubião, whose IAF-supported self-help housing project works in low-income neighborhoods; Federação das Industrias do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, a corporate social investment project; and Viva Rio,

whose business centers provide technical assistance to women-headed business ventures. In Sao Paulo he attended a RedEAmérica meeting with corporate executives Carlos Buhler of Holcim Brazil, Renata Camargo Nascimento of Instituto de Cidadania Empresarial, Raphael A. Nogueira de Freitas of Camargo Correa, Otacilio Coser and Bernadete Coser de Orem of Coimex, Roger Karam of Deutsche Bank, Ted Lago of Companhia Maranhense de Refrigerantes Ltda., João Fernando Hartz of Fundação Semear, and Sergio Asis of Arcor. The full board will visit projects in El Salvador and Guatemala in February. For more information, visit <www.iaf.gov/grants/corporate_outreach_en.asp>.

Executive Travel

In September, IAF president David Valenzuela attended the annual conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Social Network, San Pedro Sula, Honduras. In October, he attended the Small Business Congress of the Americas in Viña del Mar, Chile, where photos from Making their Way were exhibited.

In September, vice-president for programs Ramon Daubon spoke on local governance at the International Youth Foundation (IYF), the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. In October, he described grassroots development to students at Lynchburg College in Virginia and was the keynote speaker at the IYF's international conference. In November, Daubon spoke to IAF grantees in the Southern cone and at a conference for local development training institutions in Montevideo. He traveled to Brazil with IAF's new board chair Roger Wallace.

In November Ron Arms, David Valenzuela's special assistant, traveled to Honduras for the Conferencia Centroamericana por la Descentralización del Estado y el Desarrollo Local (Confedelca), a regional meeting of local development organizations in Central America and attended the planning meeting for the Second Local Development Summit.

Staff Activities

Program staff assistant, Megan Moriarty spoke at a course for youth leaders from Latin America at the IDB's INDES training center on Nov. 19. She participated in the Youth Employment Summit (YES) attended by more than 1,500 participants from NGOs, including youth organizations, government and businesses in 105 countries in October. For more information, visit <indes.iadb.org/cur.asp> and <www.yesweb.org/mexico/agenda.html>.

Miriam Brandao, IAF representative for Brazil, traveled to Indonesia for a microfinance donor training workshop, organized and taught by specialists from the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the United Nations Capital Development Fund of the United Nations Development Programme, Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

Kevin Healy, representative for Bolivia and Colombia, spoke on Latin American indigenous moments at George Washington University in October and at the Foreign Service Institute and the IAF's work in the hemisphere at the Maxwell School of Public Administration of Syracuse University in November. In December he represented the IAF on a panel on indigenous people and sustainable agriculture at the World Bank.

Jill Wheeler, representative for Mexico, attended the binational conference on productive projects organized by the Federation of Zacatecan Clubs of Southern California, held Dec. 3-4 in Zacatecas, Mexico.

Kathryn Smith Pyle, representative for El Salvador, participated in a meeting of the United Salvadoran Communities (CUS) on vocational and nutrition centers, held Dec. 9, in Arlington in connection with the IAF's transnational initiative.

Gabriela Boyer, representative for Argentina, spoke on Nov. 9 at a national conference on civic participation organized by El Foro del Sector Social, a research policy think tank in Buenos Aires. She also represented the IAF at three-day meeting on racial equality in Montevideo Nov. 15-17.

Publications by the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race

Black Américas, issue 7, compiles briefings from newspapers, journals, magazines, online articles and other resources related to African descendants in Latin America. Visit <www.thedialogue.org/iac/eng/index.html> for the publication.

Race Report 2004, published in September, evaluates legislation affecting Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, discusses international conventions and accords related to racial discrimination, and reports on the activities of the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America and the Inter-American Dialogue's race program. For the report, log onto <www.thedialogue.org/iac/eng/pubs/documents/RaceReport2004.pdf>

IAF Staff

In October Miriam Brandao became the senior representative for Brazil, Eastern South America and the Caribbean, and Kathryn Smith Pyle became senior representative for Central America and Mexico. John Reed will be working with Costa Rica in addition to Honduras and Panama.

New Faces

Hilary Brand started in August as program staff assistant for the Central America and Mexico team. She previously worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service's International Affairs Office and was staff assistant to the commercial counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá.

Juanda Smith became general services specialist in October. She worked for 10 years with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and has a B.A. in business administration.

Philip Walsh, representative for Nicaragua, came to the IAF from the Synergos Foundation in New York. He has an M.P.P. from Georgetown University and worked in Nicaragua with IAF grantee Aldea Global.

Farewells

Carolyn Karr, senior vice president and general council resigned from the Foundation in November.

Judy Morrison, IAF representative for Brazil, is taking a two-year leave of absence to head the Afro-Latin program at the Inter-American Dialogue.

Fall Interns

Jonathan Quade, a junior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges majoring in political science, worked with the Office of External Affairs.

New student volunteer program forms for the 2004/05 academic school year are now on the IAF Web site. Current students are encouraged to apply. For further information, log onto <www.iaf.gov> and click on About the IAF and IAF jobs.

In memoriam

Federal Appeals Court Judge Richard S. Arnold died September 23, 2004 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He was married to Kay Arnold of the IAF's board of directors.