

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

IAF President Begins

U.S. Department of State



Career diplomat Larry Palmer became the IAF's seventh president on Aug. 1 and the first African-American to hold the position. The son of a minister, he grew up in the South, where he excelled in school; among the colleges offering him full scholarships, he chose Emory. After graduating with honors, he earned a master's degree and then served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia. In 1982 he accepted a Foreign Service appointment. His posts include the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Korea, Ecuador and Honduras where he served as U.S. Ambassador from 2002 to 2005. For the IAF's news release, visit www.iaf.gov.

Summit of the Americas Activities

The IAF is working with the U.S. Department of State to include grantee representatives in the preparations for the Summit of the Americas to be held Nov. 4-5 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. In June, the IAF sponsored the participation of 10 representatives of civil society organizations in the Organization of American States' General Assembly (OASGA) in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Their concerns, related to Afro Latinos, indigenous movements and local development, were heard by cabinet-level officials, included U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Grantee staff interested in attending similar events (listed at www.oas.org) should contact their Foundation representative. The next Summit Implementation Review Group will meet in Argentina in September. Unable to travel? Partners of the Americas will launch a virtual forum on topics related to Afro-descendants. For more information, visit www.partners.net or contact Partners at forhemisferico@partners.net



Gerardo Bacalini and Marcos Rodriguez represented IAF grantees at the OASGA.

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Mayors Draft Hemispheric Agenda

At the Eleventh Annual Inter-American Conference for Mayors and Local Officials, held in Miami, more than 400 local officials signed a declaration to be presented at the Summit of the Americas on June 23. The IAF hosted workshops on transparency, citizen participation, local development, financing mechanisms, and information and technology. For more information, including the text of the declaration, visit <http://chua2.fiu.edu/ipmcs/Default.htm>.

Grantee News

Bolivia

A booth manned by five representatives from El Ceibo, an organic chocolate farmers' cooperative in Bolivia's Alto Beni, was as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's food and culture exhibit on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., June 23-July 4. Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia, coordinated their participation. The cooperative's delicious new dark chocolate bar sold out by the second day of the Festival. El Ceibo was world's first small farmers' cooperative to manufacture—and, since 1986, to export—cocoa products (powder, butter, chocolate) under its members' management. El Ceibo's representatives joined the Mshikamano Farmers Association from Tanzania, an African Development Foundation grantee that grows and processes Sweet Unity Coffee, in a tandem restaurant debut at Georgetown's contemporary David Gregory. Other guests at the dinner included members of the American Institute of Wine and Food. For IAF's news release, visit our Web site.

Guatemala

Joaquín Cajbón Uscap, administrator of the Asociación Museo Comunitario Rabinal Achi, was elected to the board of directors of the International Network of Community Museums at the Fourth Meeting of Community Museums in June. Participants from 10 countries in the Americas shared experiences and visited organizations and archeological sites in Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua, where the meeting was held.

Paraguay

Casa de la Juventud organized a forum where 500 Paraguayan youths discussed their concerns and approved an agenda forwarded to local government officials Asunción for comments. Casa's "Presupuesto Joven Ya" campaign involves young people in public decisions by encouraging participation in local town hall meetings.

Honduras

Representatives from Proyecto Aldea Global in Honduras participated in the Sixth Latin American Symposium for Research and Extension of Agro-ecological Projects, held July 20-22 in Manizales, Colombia. The IAF funded PAG in 1999 to help revive agricultural production and install irrigation, sewer and potable water systems in nine communities around the Cerro Azul Meambar National Park that had been damaged by Hurricane Mitch.

Grantee Awards

El Salvador

The World Bank's Consultive Group selected grantee Asociación Salvadoreña de Extensionistas Empresariales del INCAE (ASEI) for its microcredit transparency prize from a field of more than 150 credit programs from around the world. ASEI won because it strictly adheres to international accounting rules. For more information visit <www.cgap.org>.

Peru

On June 23, grantee Programa Integral para el Desarrollo del Café (PIDECAFE) received the 2005 "Alvaro Quijandría Salmón" award for its production of natural brown sugar in the Amazon. PIDECAFE produces more 4,000 kilos per month of sugar for domestic and foreign markets. The award was presented by Peru's vice minister of agriculture, Julio Escudero Meza, on National Campasino day in Lima.

Grantee Resources

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) invites applications from activists, scholars and journalists to study democracy issues in Washington, D.C., for 10 months through its Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program 2006–2007. The application deadline is Nov. 1, 2005. For more information, log onto <www.ned.org/forum/R-FAApplication.pdf> or <www.ned.org>.

DelNet, the International Labor Organization's (ILO) training center is accepting applications for scholarships for the year-long local development courses offered online. The deadline is Sept. 26. Classes start on Nov. 3. For more information, log onto <www.itcilo.it/delnet>.

UNESCO welcomes reports on community-based efforts to preserve language: local and regional projects in education, revitalization, standardization, community development, awareness-raising, capacity-building, documentation or the use of new technologies. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to ling.diversity@unesco.org. For more information, visit <<http://portal.unesco.org/culture/goodpractice>>.

Public Events

Salvadoran President at Grantee Conference

At the Second Inter-American Summit on Decentralization and Local/Regional Governance, Salvadoran president Elias Antonio Saca recognized the IAF and the Diputación de Barcelona for their long-term support for development efforts in El Salvador. Held in San Salvador July 20–22, the event was co-sponsored by both honorees and was organized by Salvadorian grantee Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) and a committee comprised of representatives of current and former grantees from throughout Latin America. El Salvador's entire National Congress and Supreme Court witnessed the presentation of awards, along with the approximately 500 legislators, municipal officials, researchers and NGO representatives participating in conference. Visit the IAF's Web site for IAF's news release.

Community Development Conference

At an international conference on community development in Baltimore June 24-26, representatives from El Ciebo, a recycling cooperative in Argentina, CEDERENA, a community-based association addressing water services in Ecuador, and ACCEDDE, a Mexican NGO working to build democratic practices, spoke on a panel examining how their community organizations identified problems, established priorities and partnered with other institutions to propose policy initiatives.

African-Descendants at La Raza

Ecuadorians Carolina Lara and Diógenes Hurtado Segura of IAF grantee Movimiento Mi Cometa along with Miguel Pereira and Carlos Medina of Mundo Afro in Paraguay and Uruguay, respectively, shared their experiences at the National Council of La Raza's July 16-19 conference in Philadelphia. Approximately 80 individuals attended their panel "Afro-Latino Youth Leaders: Ethnicity and Culture as Catalysts for Community Organizing." Later, the panelists met in Washington, D.C., with representatives of the Latin American Youth Center and Senator Barack Obama's staff.

RedEAmérica Meeting

RedEAmérica's council of 12 directors held its annual meeting in the IAF's Arlington headquarters June 13-14. The council agreed to develop a global fund as well as a Web-based system to track projects and results, and discussed other initiatives including RedEAmérica's regional training programs. According to Walter Price, IAF's corporate programs director, the fund will be incorporated in Delaware and Santiago, Chile, and will channel significant resources from international donors to community groups. RedEAmérica was founded in 2001 to encourage corporate support for grassroots development. It currently counts 53 members in 12 countries.



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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Upcoming Conferences

Third Conference of African Descendent Legislators. San Jose, Costa Rica, Aug. 28-31.

The IAF is sponsoring South American legislators of African descent and other participants from Latin America and the Caribbean at this conference sponsored by Global Rights Partners for Justice and el Centro de Mujeres Afro Costarricenses. IAF president Larry Palmer will speak and participants will draft in a declaration for presentation at the Summit of the Americas. The African Descendant Summit Forum will follow on Sept. 1-2, as well as Partners of the Americas' virtual forum.

Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility. Santiago, Chile, Sept. 25-27.

The Inter-American Development Bank and the IAF are co-sponsoring the third annual CSR conference. IAF president Larry Palmer will speak and a panel of current IAF grantees will discuss CSR in grassroots development. For more information, visit <www.csramericas.org>

Latin American Local Development Conference. Cuenca, Ecuador, Sept. 19-21.

For more information, see the Web site of the organizer, former grantee Fundacion Oficina de Investigaciones Sociales y del Desarrollo at <www.fundacionofis.org.ec/encuentro/index.htm>.

Innovative Democracy and Local Spaces Workshop. Washington, D.C., Sept. 2.

The IAF and the Woodrow Wilson Center are co-sponsoring a workshop on the conclusions of a study of innovative municipal governments in Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia and Brazil. For more information, visit <wwics.si.edu>.

Conflict Resolution Workshops. Various venues, August-December.

Fundación Cambio Democrático of Argentina, through a grant to the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN), will train IAF grantees in Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Panama in conflict resolution and management. The IAF support IADN in 2004 to organize workshops for IAF grantees on deliberation and conflict resolution. Contact your Foundation representative for more information.

IAF Photo Exhibit

University of Texas at Austin, Oct. 6, 2005-Jan. 20, 2006.

Photos on display document the IAF's work. Other institutions interested in hosting this exhibit should contact Mark Caicedo at mcaicedo@iaf.gov. For more information or a sample of the IAF's photos, visit our Web site.

Woodrow Wilson Center will host the exhibit January 20 through February 28, 2006 in Washington DC.

Conference Notes

On May 11, the IAF, Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute and the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America co-sponsored a two-day conference on Mexicans of African descent. Bobby Vaughn of Notre Dame de Namur University and Sagrario Cruz-Carretero of the Universidad Veracruzana opened the event with an overview of their research.

The IAF sent Kevin Healy, representative for Bolivia and Colombia, and four representatives from its Bolivian grantee ASUR Foundation and its former Mexican grantee Unión de Museos Comunitarios de Oaxaca to the National Museum of the American Indian's community museum workshop held in Cuzco, Peru, July 11-16. A workshop highlight was a tour to the new Museum of the Center for Traditional Textiles, managed by grantee Centro de Textiles Tradicionales de Cusco.

Guest Speakers

Steve Waddell, executive director of Global Action Networks, a United Nations global partnership initiative, spoke to IAF staff on April 29. For more information, visit <www.gan-net.net>.

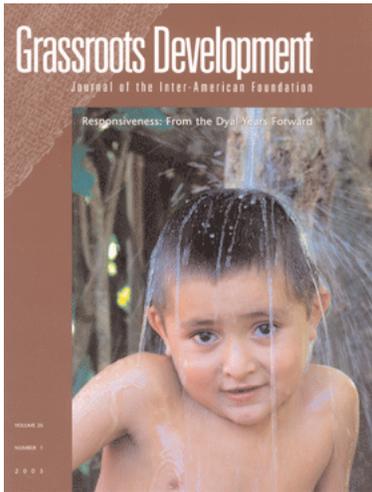
On May 26, Greg Adams, the deputy director from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, and his assistant Blakeney Lowe spoke on their work.

On June 28, Patti Petesch, a consultant to the World Bank, discussed a new study on moving out of poverty based on Deepa Narayan's 2005 publication, "Measuring Empowerment: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives."

On May 24, Isabel Cruz, director of the Asociación Mexicana de Uniones de Crédito del Sector Social (AMUCSS), described her work with rural microbanks. The NGO was mentioned in a New York Times described below. For more information, visit <www.amucss.net> and <www.microbancos.com>.

On May 3, Rosa Maria Vidal of grantee Pronatura discussed the organization's work with a sustainable community forestry enterprise and organic coffee and other agricultural production in Chiapas, Mexico.

IAF publications



Grassroots Development, volume 26 number 1 highlights the IAF's 35th anniversary in December of 2004 with an interview with the first IAF president, Bill Dyal and features grants awarded to Colombia's Bosconia program and the weaving cooperative Manos del Uruguay as well as articles on microcredit in Ecuador, an HIV/AIDS project in Venezuela, water services in Honduras and more. To receive your free copy, send your complete name and mailing address to publications@iaf.gov.

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Grantees in the Press

The *New York Times*' May 26 article "Shadowy Lines That Still Divide," on recent immigration to the U.S., made reference to a Guerrero branch microbank of 2003 grantee AMUCSS, referenced above. In an effort to improve financial services in rural communities, AMUCSS works with U.S.-based migrants, such as the one mentioned in the article, to lower the cost of sending remittances. For more information, visit the archives at www.nytimes.com.

"Discriminado y Casi Invisible," the lead article in the May 12 *El Universal*, a Mexican daily, detailed the above-referenced IAF-sponsored conference on Mexicans of African descent, estimated at 1 or 2 percent of Mexico's roughly 100 million inhabitants. For more information on the conference visit wwics.si.edu

On June 29, Luke Dowdney, a researcher and academic who worked with Brazilian grantee Viva Rio, presented his new book *Neither War nor Peace: International Comparisons of Children and Youth in Organized Armed Violence* at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. The book is based on three years of research in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, South Africa and the U.S. For more information, visit www.vivario.com.

Staff Activities

Vice president for programs Ramon Daubon discussed "New Looks at Grassroots Development" with international students at Georgetown University and spoke on the IAF's work at the African Development Foundation on July 12.

Antanas Mockus y Enrique Peñalosa, former mayors of Bogota were principal speakers at the discussion of public spaces, sponsored by the IAF and the Woodrow Wilson Center May 13 at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota. IAF dissemination officer Paula Durbin participated.



Universidad de los Andes

Woodrow Wilson Center workshops.

New Staff

CPA Bryan Fyock became IAF's auditor in July. He was formerly an audit manager with Deloitte & Touche and a volunteer with the Xaverian Brothers in a boarding school in rural Bolivia.

Farewell

In June, program staff coordinator Blanca Suarez retired and executive assistant, Karen Juckett left for graduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Program staff assistant Randall Blair left for graduate studies at Princeton University in August.



Conference in San Salvador

Summer Interns

Michael Annen, an undergraduate at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, worked with the Office of Evaluation.

Tony Benivides, from the César Chavez Charter School in Washington D.C., worked for the Office of Programs.

Gregory Minor, a recent graduate of the University of California Los Angeles, assisted the Office of Programs with its Brazil portfolio.

Jeffery Malcolm worked with RedEAmérica and plans to join the Peace Corps then study for his master's degree at the University of Denver.

Elizabeth Kopley, a law student at George Washington University, was the IAF's legal intern.

Liz Purchia, an undergraduate at Hamilton College, researched gender equality in youth sports programs.

Meredith Sanderson, a graduate student at Georgetown University, researched community-based recycling projects for the Office of Programs.

Student volunteer forms for the 2005/06 academic school year are available upon request. For further information, e-mail info@iaf.gov.