

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

U.S. Senators Visit IAF Weaving Grantee

Members of a U.S. Senate delegation led by Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) met in Peru on Dec. 31 with representatives of Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC), a current IAF grantee. During their visit to CTTC's community museum, just a few blocks from Cusco's central Plaza de Armas, Reid, along with Senators Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), Ken Salazar (D-Colo.), Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) and Robert F. Bennett (R-Utah), saw how CTTC's restoration of a local weaving tradition works to generate economic development. Nilda Callañaupa, CTTC's executive director and an expert weaver, briefed the senators.

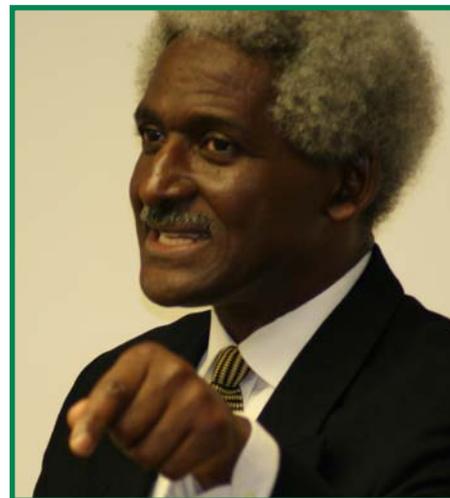
CTTC, founded in 1996, is improving the well-being of indigenous weavers in nine communities in the Peruvian highlands by reviving ancient Inca designs and techniques to use in crafting products sold worldwide. Profits from the museum store go directly to the participating communities to support social and economic projects. The IAF's grant helped CTTC secure commercial opportunities, promote appreciation of traditional textiles, and offer training and technical assistance to weavers.

Palmer Addresses Business Leaders

"Prosperous communities are good for business," IAF president Larry Palmer, told the 500 participants from 20 countries attending the Fourth Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility held Dec. 10-12 in Salvador, Brazil. He called on the private sector to help the poor "discover within themselves the capacity to thrive and prosper."

Palmer, a career diplomat, and other speakers discussed such issues as how the private sector can generate profits while acting as responsible corporate citizens who offer quality jobs and serve communities—a practice known as corporate social responsibility (CSR). He said he did not want to focus on CSR because conference participants were experts already committed to its practice. Instead he spoke about "healthy, prosperous communities and how CSR might contribute to that goal. He said the IAF believes that the healthiest and most prosperous nations are built by citizens who take "ownership" of their communities.

The IAF joined the Instituto Iris in hosting speakers who shared information on workplace diversity in South America. In a panel discussion, the IAF showcased grantee organizations that engage business in partnerships with persons with disabilities, African descendants and indigenous people in Bolivia, Brazil and Chile. The IAF also held a breakfast discussion of its RedEAmérica program. The conference was sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Brazil-based Ethos Institute and the Federation of Industries from the Brazilian state of Bahia. For more information, visit <www.csramericas.org>.



Heidi Smith

Newsletter 17
Fall/Winter 2006
(Aug-Jan.)

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Grantee Up-date

Former IAF grantee Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA) received the MacArthur Foundation's Award for Creative and Effective Institutions on Aug. 24. SPDA's focus, since 1986, has been on environmental policy affecting the Amazon rain forest. With its 1993 IAF grant, SPDA developed a training program in public interest environmental law for 80 lawyers and other students in four regions of Peru. The MacArthur award recognized nine hard-working organizations in five countries for their creativity and effectiveness in a context of strict budget constraints.



Heidi Smith

President-elect Alan Garcia visited IAF Peruvian grantee Instituto de Promoción y Desarrollo Agrario (IPDA) which is producing a new breed of super-cuy in the Lurigancho-Chosica and Cieneguilla regions outside Lima when IPDA's efforts were recognized with an award from Lima's

municipal government that included World Bank and Japanese government financing.

Grantee Travel

Representatives of IAF Uruguayan grantee Mundo Afro visited Nicaragua's Fundación de Investigación y Desarrollo Holístico en Educación Sexual (FIDHES) Sept. 2-8 to share experiences related to young people.

IAF grantees from Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia attended the International Ecotourism Society's Sept. 7-9 Indigenous Peoples and Ecotourism Certification Workshop in Quito, Ecuador. To learn more visit <www.ecotourism.org>.

IAF provided travel grants for African-descendent women leaders to meet in Nicaragua Oct. 17-23 as a coordinating committee at an event co-sponsored by the Afro Caribbean Women's network in Nicaragua and the Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative.

Grantee Resources

Courses

The International Labor Organization (ILO) offers an online course in local development and health created by its International Training Centre's Delnet Program for practitioners representing local government, NGOs and businesses. For the list of candidates and details on applying, log onto <www.itcilo.it/delnet>.

Awards

Echoing Green, a U.S.-based organization supporting emerging social innovators with matching start-up funds, is receiving applications. Visit <www.echoinggreen.org> for the 2007 application.

The New Forests Project (NFP), a people-to-people, direct-action program established in 1982 to curb deforestation in developing countries, is offering free learning materials. Since 1982, NEP has assisted more than 4,400 villages in over 120 countries. It offers packets of tree seeds, technical information and training materials free of charge to groups of small farmers and civil society organizations who are interested in starting reforestation projects with fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing trees. Visit <www.newforestsproject.com> for more information.

The Organization of American States (OAS) announced the Inter-American Civil Society Partnership, a program funded by the Open Society Institute with the object of increasing civil society participation in Summit of the Americas activities. Up to \$100,000 will be awarded to organizations proposing to monitor and implement Summit mandates. For more information, visit <www.civil-society.oas.org> or e-mail serid@redinter.org.

IAF's New Board of Directors

The U.S. Senate has confirmed the following presidential appointees to the IAF's board of directors: Roger Wallace, who will serve his second term as chair; Jack Vaughn, vice chair; and members Kay Kelley Arnold, Gary Bryner, Thomas Dodd, Adolfo Franco, John Salazar and Thomas A. Shannon. The new board met Jan. 22 in Arlington. Biographic information is available at <www.iaf.gov>

Mark Caicedo



Presidential-level Visit

Wendy Widmann de Berger, Guatemala's first lady, visited the IAF on Sept. 13 to learn about grassroots development. Her Secretaría de Obras Sociales de la Esposa del Presidente oversees community-based projects for women, the disabled and social organizations. Guatemalan embassy officials accompanied her. For more information visit <www.osep.gob.gt>.

RedEAmérica Update

On Oct 1, RedEAmérica, an IAF-supported initiative to engage companies and corporate foundations in grassroots development, announced that Colombian member Corporación Consorcio para el Desarrollo (Consorcio) will manage the network's operation from Bogota. Margarita Barraquer Sourdis, formerly of Colombia's Ministry of Culture, was named executive director.

At the October workshop organized by Fundación Corona in Cali, Colombia, representatives of 35 member organizations met on RedEAmérica's results measurement system, reviewing field data collected by participating members. Workshop participants also discussed social, political and economic aspects of the most favorable environment for grassroots development.

In December, Argentine member Fundación Minetti hosted a workshop where Fundación Empresarios por la Educación, a Colombian member, presented a recent study on community participation in local education initiatives. The workshop included a site visit.

Founded in 2002, RedEAmérica has 60 members in 12 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. It is incorporated in the U.S. and Colombia. For more information, visit <www.redeamerica.org>.

Advancing Equity

Larry Palmer, IAF president, joined Hector Morales, vice president of the IDB, and Salih Booker, executive director of Global Rights, in opening *Advancing Equity: Economic Inclusion & Building Opportunities for the Majority*, a one-day seminar on equality in the Americas co-hosted by the IAF and the Inter-American Development Bank. Panelists included African-descendent IAF-sponsored travel grantees. For more information visit <www.iadb.org>.



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

March

Beyond Visibility: Rethinking the African Diaspora in Latin America, Berkley, Calif., March 1-2. The IAF is supporting this seminar organized by the Afro-Latino Working Group at the University of California's Center for Latin American Studies.

Generating Knowledge from the Inside, Ecuador, March 24-April 2. The IAF has awarded travel grants to the Barlovento Group, a network of academics developing Afro-descendent curriculum organized by Sheila S. Walker of the Phelps Stokes Fund and Jesus García of Fundación AfroAmérica. The group will analyze current primary, secondary and tertiary educational curricula.

April

Opportunity Zones Workshop, Guatemala City, April 9-13. Hosted by Guatemala's Presidential Advisory Commission for Local Development, delegations from renewal communities in eastern Kentucky, Yakima, Wash., and Chattanooga, Tenn., will assess prospects for Opportunity Zones.

Learning Communities Conference, New Mexico, April 18-20. Ramon Daubon will speak at this conference organized by the Border Philanthropy Collaborative. Visit <www.borderpartnership.org> for more information.

Opportunity Zones Delegations Visits, April 23-27. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the IAF will sponsor the visit of an Argentine delegation to renewal communities in California, as part of the Opportunity Zone initiative resulting from the Summit of the Americas.

Workshops and Meetings

Open Dialogues focused on the Quilombos of Brazil and Palenques of Venezuela, held in New York Sept. 22-28, provided insight into the land issues facing African descendent communities in the Americas. The event, organized by the Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative, the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute at the CUNY Graduate Center of Medgar Evers College and the Schomburg Research Center for Black Culture received support from the IAF and the Ford Foundation.

The IAF provided travel grants for participants attending the second regional meeting of the *Central American Coalition for the Prevention of Youth Violence* held in San Salvador Oct. 26. The conference addressed prevention and rehabilitation programs for criminals and gang members as alternatives to current *mano dura* policies. About 175 attended, including representatives from universities, federal and local government agencies, the police, and civil society.

The IAF sponsored a panel at the first convention of the *Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norte America* held in Los Angeles Oct. 27-28. Several hundred representatives of Mexican immigrant hometown clubs and federations attended. Fabiola Velasco Gudiel, how heads IAF grantee Mujeres Envasadoras de Nopal de Ayoquezco, spoke on binational collaboration on productive projects; Isabel Cruz, director of IAF grantee Asociación Mexicana de Uniones de Crédito del Sector Social, on remittances; and Anselmo Meza of IAF grantee Migración and Desarrollo described his experience working with transnational partnerships in Zacatecas. Jill Wheeler, IAF's regional director for Mexico and Central America, also spoke.

The IAF supported the *IV Encuentro de Salvadoreños en el Mundo* held Nov. 17-19 in San Salvador. Participants from around the world discussed the vote for Salvadorans living abroad, violence, remittances and migration, trade, and other social and development issues. Many IAF grantee representatives and Kathryn Pyle, IAF representative for El Salvador, attended.

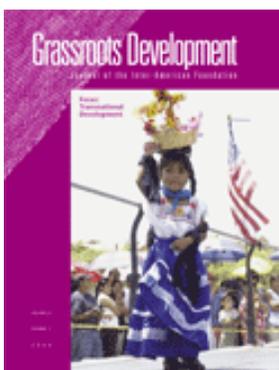
The IAF sponsored travel grantees at a Nov. 4-5 Woodrow Wilson Center seminar on Mexican migrant civic participation in the U.S. co-sponsored with the University of California, Santa Cruz. University of Zacatecas professor Rodolfo Garcia Zamora, who coordinates IAF's grant to Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo, was the main speaker.

The IAF introduced its corporate programs to representatives of the Haitian business community at a conference organized by Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Feb. 3-4.

The IAF sponsored three representatives of African-descendent communities in Brazil, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic participating in *Amplifying Youth Voices*, a program held by Global Rights in Washington, D.C. and New York Feb. 6-14.

Georgetown University's Center for Latin American Studies, the World Bank and the IAF organized a conference on *Indigenous Peoples and Economic Opportunities in Latin America* in Washington, D.C., Feb. 9. Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia and Colombia, spoke along with Bernardo Apaza, Bolivian social entrepreneur and member of IAF grantee El Ceibo Coop Federation. Healy also spoke on indigenous Bolivians at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 25.

IAF publications



Grassroots Development has been distributed to subscribers and uploaded to the IAF Web site in Spanish, English and Portuguese. To order your copy, send your complete postal address to publications@iaf.gov. IAF's 2006 annual report is expected in the first quarter of 2007.

Photo Exhibit

University of Texas at Austin, Sept.-Jan. 2007

The IAF is hosting "Touching the Future" in the Benson Library. Excerpts may be viewed at http://www.iaf.gov/photo_essay/photo_essay_en.asp.

Online Resources

The World Bank's new Internet resource on doing business in developing countries includes information on paying taxes, soliciting licenses and other essential practices at www.doingbusiness.org.

The nonprofit Innovation Network shares planning and evaluation tools, including IAF's Grassroots Development Framework, on its Web site at www.innonet.org.

Caroline Moser's report on the Brookings Institute's *Asset-based Approaches to Poverty Reduction in a Globalize Context* workshop held in Washington, D.C., in July is available at www.brookings.edu/global/assets06/conference.htm.

In the News

The Argentine daily *El Clarin* of July 17 included an article on students working with former IAF grantee Federación de Asociaciones de Centros Educativos para la Producción Total (FACEPT). Visit www.clarin.com/diario/2006/07/16/sociedad/s-04015.htm for the full article.

In July, *El Clarin's* Sunday magazine highlighted the work of Rosario Quispe, a celebrated indigenous rights activist and executive director of IAF grantee WARMI which provides credit in indigenous communities in Argentina's northwestern provinces.

El Telégrafo, a Uruguayan newspaper, covered a local development conference organized by IAF grantee Asociación de Productores de Leche de Paysandú (APLP) in conjunction with its project aimed at strengthening dairy farmer networks by providing training and access to credit. For the article, visit www.eltelegrafo.com/notas/loc_20-7-06.htm#local2.

Peru's regional *El Tiempo* covered IAF grantee Programa Integral para el Desarrollo del Café's Dec. 3 book launch in Piura. PIDECAFÉ is made up of associations of coffee producers affiliated with CEPI-CAFE, a regional coffee growers association working to expand its business to include the production and sale of brown sugar. The book is a user-guide for producers.

On Dec. 15, news of IAF grantee ALPIMED's work with El Salvador's legislature hit *La Prensa*, a news paper with a nation-wide readership. The local development and micro-enterprise organization received a 2004 IAF grant to offer training and credit to families who invest remittance income in microbusinesses. On Nov. 27, *La Prensa Gráfica* also reported on ALPIMED's grant. For more information, visit www.alpimed.net.

On Dec 1, the Peruvian online daily *24 Horas Libre* reported on IAF's 2006 funding of four new projects and on IAF's work in Peru.

Reorganization

President Larry Palmer's re-organization of the IAF, announced in November, includes the appointment of Judith Morrison as regional director for South America and the Caribbean and Jill Wheeler as regional director of Mexico and Central America. Morrison returned to the IAF in October after a hiatus as director of the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race hosted by the Inter-American Dialogue. Ramon Daubon will lead the Office of External Affairs.

Guest Speakers

Deputy Assistant Secretary Shannon H. Sorzano of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development spoke on HUD's community development experience on Dec. 6.

On Nov. 20, Joanne Omang, *The Washington Post's* first female foreign correspondent, spoke about covering Argentina during the Dirty-War of the mid-1970s and Central America during the 1980s.

On Nov. 14, anthropologist Martin Van Hildebrand spoke on the Fundación Girasol's work with indigenous grassroots groups and NGOs on self-governance, territorial rights and conservation initiatives in the Colombian Amazon.

Marcelo Neri of Brazil's Getulio Vargas Foundation spoke on the internal evaluation process on Oct. 31.

Mariano Curicama, recently elected prefect of Ecuador's Chimborazo province and formerly associated with IAF grantee Comité de Desarrollo Local de Guamote, spoke on July 26 about his political career and the IAF-funded Guamote project.

Representatives from the Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM), an umbrella organization for Mexican hometown associations in California, discussed their work in Mexico and the U.S. on July 20.

New Faces

Jessica Bremner, program staff assistant for Brazil, received her B.A. from Tulane University. Originally from San Francisco, she spent a year in Sao Paulo.

Michael Campbell, IAF's auditor, graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He previously worked for the U.S. Homeland Security Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, having spent several extended work details in Mexico with the government and for the private sector.

Fall Interns

Benjamin Thomas, an undergraduate at Albertson College of Idaho worked with the corporate program.

Cara A. George, a BA/MA candidate at American University's School of International Service, worked with the Program Office on the impact of community foundations on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Staff Activities

In September, Patrick Breslin spoke to students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges (N.Y.) spending a semester in Washington.

Marcy Kelley represented the IAF at the Council on Foundations' meeting on community foundations in Boston Sept. 18-20.

On Oct. 2, a group of Puerto Rican university students heard about the IAF's development approach. The students were spending the semester in Washington, D.C., after winning the Puerto Rican legislature's Cordoba-Fernos Fellowship.

Panama's Catholic University Santa María La Antigua publicized IAF representative John Reed's Dec. 4 visit on its Web site. For more about the university's work, visit <http://www.usma.ac.pa/dci/haciendo/Haciendo.html#nota2>.

Patrick Breslin spoke on development in Latin America at a Jan. 15-24 faculty seminar to students at the Center of Excellence of the University of Kyoto's law school. He emphasized his 2004 *Grassroots Development* article "Thinking Outside Newton's Box."

Ramon Daubon represented the IAF at the Jan. 24-25 *Generative Reflection Workshop: Assessing the Impact of Democratic Dialogues* sponsored by the United Nations Development Program at the Carter Center in Atlanta. On Jan. 11 he also spoke on international development and the role for grassroots development to students from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

James Mulligan, an undergraduate at Hobart College, worked with the External Affairs Office on publications and research.

Natalia Molano, an undergraduate at George Washington University's Eliot School for International Affairs, worked with the Program Office on Colombia and Bolivia proposals.

Farewell

Kathryn Smith Pyle, IAF representative for El Salvador, Walter Price, corporate programs director, and Patrick Breslin, vice president for external affairs, have announced their retirement from the IAF.