



IAF CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

January- March 2002

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IAF AND MEXICAN FOUNDATION COMMIT TO DEVELOPMENT FUND

The **Inter-American Foundation** and the **Fundación para Mexicanos en el Exterior (FUNDAMEX)** signed a memorandum of understanding on March 11, creating the framework for new programs to benefit Mexican communities with high levels of poverty and migration.

Each organization committed up to \$2 million for social and economic development projects identified by the beneficiary communities. Additionally, IAF will contribute its experience with grassroots development while FUNDAMEX will provide the program with expertise on migration issues. The IAF/FUNDAMEX agreement was incorporated into the final Partnership for Prosperity report presented by **Secretary of State Colin Powell** and **Eduardo Sojo**, Mexican presidential advisor, to **Presidents George Bush** and **Vicente Fox** at the United Nations Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico on March 22. (See **Initiatives with Mexico** on page 2.)



Rep. Hilda Solis and **Javier Martínez**, REDES executive director, at the "mobile market" in San Salvador.

REP. SOLIS VISITS GRANTEES

Rep. Hilda Solis (Calif.) visited IAF grantees and spoke with grant beneficiaries in El Salvador and Nicaragua March 15-17. Her itinerary included **REDES'** "mobile markets" of kiosks that rotate through neighborhoods in Mejicanos, San Salvador, and **AVODEC's** rural preventive health program in Jinotega, Nicaragua.

"I was very glad to see that the resources are directed toward helping those who need it the most," Solis told *Connections* from her Washington office. "That is why it is important to support the continuation of funding for these kinds of programs which invest in communities to become self-sufficient. In light of the

many devastations that Central American countries have faced in the past, and the financial difficulties they now face, such programs are instrumental in revitalizing economies and in building a sense of community and a sense of family."

Solis also visited **FODEM-CENZONTLE**, a Nicaraguan women's micro-enterprise program in Esteli, currently under consideration for a grant. "These women are hard workers with the desire to succeed and

all they needed to support their family is the resources — which is exactly what these programs provide,” she said.

The congresswoman was accompanied by her staff aide **Nidia Bautistata** and **Patrick Breslin**, IAF’s director of external affairs. **Miriam Brandao**, IAF representative for Nicaragua, had briefed her before her departure. ❖

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF IN BOLIVIA

Chris Krueger, IAF representative for Bolivia and Peru, accompanied a congressional staff delegation to Bolivia Jan. 20-25. **Thomas Costa** and **David Rapallo**, respectively Republican professional staff member and Democratic counsel for the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Administration and International Relations of the House Government Reform Committee, learned first-hand about IAF priorities and programs through site visits to grantees.

During their recent trip, **Javier Diez de Medina**, director of the **Inti Raymi Foundation**, explained how its Local Development Fund had leveraged five dollars for every dollar contributed by the IAF. Together, the IAF and the Inti Raymi Foundation have funded 45 grassroots projects in 25 communities near the Inti Raymi gold mine.

The congressional aides also learned about the broad participation of small-scale producers in the National Dialogue defining Bolivia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy. They participated in a town meeting with **CASDEC**, an NGO that works in natural resource expansion and management in Tiraque municipality in the department of Cochabamba. After speaking with the municipal council, Costa and Rapallo met with community leaders in Koari at the site of the watershed of 10 communities, a project using IAF resources for improving agro-forestry, water resources, and organic agriculture production for consumption and marketing. ❖

INITIATIVES WITH MEXICO

From November to March, IAF president **David Valenzuela** participated in several events leading to increased exchanges with Mexico.

In November, Valenzuela summarized the Inter-American Foundation’s experience at a conference on local development in the global context in Guanajuato. The conference was sponsored by the **Community Foundation of Bajío**, an IAF grantee; the **state government of Guanajuato**; **Synergos**, a U.S. development organization affiliated with the **Global Philanthropists Circle**; and individuals from the private sector. Among those speaking on the Mexican government’s role in alleviating poverty were **President Vicente Fox**, **Guanajuato Governor Carlos Romero Hicks** and **Carlos Flores**, Fox’s senior adviser.

On February 19 Valenzuela participated in U.S.-Mexico bilateral talks, the second round of the Partnership for Prosperity initiative launched in November with discussions in Merida. The objective of the February session, held in the White House Conference Center, was to generate proposals for joint implementation based on analyses of issues related to six topics: agriculture, housing, financing, information technology, infrastructure and remittances. Each country invited government and the private sector experts in the topic areas to confer in a spirit of bilateral cooperation. The proposals were presented to **Presidents Bush** and **Fox** at their meeting in Monterrey on March 22.

As part of the Partnership for Prosperity initiative, the IAF, FUNDAMEX, and the Mexican Presidency’s Office for Mexicans Abroad are starting a fund to attract public and private resources for poverty reduction activities and to further encourage Mexican migrants in the United States to invest in productive activities in their home communities. A pilot program for maximizing the use of such remittances is currently being developed. ❖

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?	SALVAGING WATER SOURCES
<p>Adolfo Franco was sworn in March 8 as Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Mr. Franco recently served the House International Relations Committee as its majority counsel. From 1985 to 2000 he held various positions at the IAF, including senior vice president, director of congressional affairs, general counsel and acting president.</p> <p>Many other IAF staff, board members, fellows and interns are also successfully contributing elsewhere as development or international affairs professionals. <i>IAF Connections</i> is listing some below. This list is by no means exhaustive and will be writing about more alumni in the future. Please help keep us up to date at info@iaf.gov.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Barbieri — Peace Corps Director, Belize • Peter Bell — President, Care International; Co-Chair, Inter-American Dialogue Board of Directors • Mac Chapin — Executive Director, Native Lands • Anita Friedman — Peace Corps Director, Dominican Republic • Rita Funaro — Managing Editor <i>Latin American Economic Politics</i> of the Inter-American Development Bank • Peter Hakim — President, Inter-American Dialogue • Ray Offenheiser — President, Oxfam America • Maria Otero — President and CEO, Acción-AITECH • Susan Pezzullo — Peace Corps Director, Nicaragua • Charles Reilly — Peace Corps Director, Guatemala • Manuel Rocha — United States Ambassador to Bolivia • Michel Shifter — Vice President, Inter-American Dialogue • Bradford Smith — Vice President, Peace and Social Justice Unit, Ford Foundation • Steve Vetter — President, Eureka Foundation 	<p>“Deforestation and contamination are wiping out the sources of water in Cibao,” said Domingo Rodríguez, president of the board of directors and spokesperson for Sociedad Ecológica del Cibao (SOECI). SOECI is a regional nonprofit organization in the province of Cibao, whose mission is to promote a positive relationship between people and the environment that improves the quality of life and promotes sustainable development. It is part of a commission designated by the president of the Dominican Republic to establish a “green belt” in Santiago province.</p> <p>Strategies for conserving water sources are defined by another nonprofit organization with a mission similar to SOECI’s, Plan Estratégico de Santiago (PES), which has been approved by the provincial legislature, Cibao’s Sala Capitular. The nine-year plan includes the conservation, salvaging and reforestation of the Yaque Norte River, Santiago’s main water source, with support from civil society, the private sector, and central and municipal governments. Since 1999, SOECI and PES have each received IAF grants exceeding \$250,000 for projects that also mobilize resources from the local government. ❖</p>
	<p>MARKETING ON THE WEB</p> <p>Peoplink is a non-profit organization helping artisans in remote communities around the world market their products internationally over the Internet. It conducts business directly with producers, maximizing their profit. How does it work? Peoplink develops a trading partner relationship with local nonprofit development organizations linked to grassroots groups such as craft cooperatives, refugees associations and peasant leagues. Each trading partner provides services to several grassroots groups, which include photographing artisans at work and products for sale. Trading partners also help groups set up their own Web sites hosted by Peoplink, answer questions via email, and link artisans with technology. Log onto www.peoplink.com for more details. ❖</p>

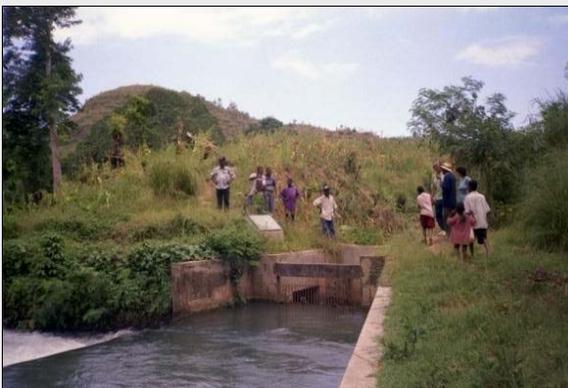


IAF REP RECONNECTS NC CHURCH WITH HAITI

During a recent trip to Haiti, **Linda Borst**, vice president for programs, and **Carlo Dade**, IAF representative for the Dominican Republic and Haiti, literally stumbled upon a long lost link between an IAF-funded project and the Presbytery church of Mecklenburg, North Carolina.

In the community of Croix-Fer (Kwa Fè) near the border city of Belladere, the IAF team visited an irrigation canal repaired with co-funding from IAF grantee **Fondasyon Enstitisyon pou Devlopman ak Edikasyon Sivik ki Sòti nan Baz-la (FIDEB)**. While touring the canal system, Borst and Dade were surprised to find a dedicatory plaque. Local residents explained the canal had originally been constructed with extensive participation from members of a group of North Carolina churches from the mid-1970s through the early 1980s. Due to political instability in Haiti in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the community subsequently lost touch with the group of churches that had helped to build the canals.

Upon returning to the United States, Dade e-mailed photos of the canal, including one of the plaque, to the members of the Presbytery, in North Carolina. **Sally Graves**, editor at the **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, published a piece in the church newspaper, "In the Fullness of Time," with the photos. The article noted the success and continuing value of the canal. Reminding readers of a forgotten chapter in the Presbytery church's history, it mentioned several church elders and a former minister who worked on the canal.



"For those who were not here 15 years ago," Graves said, "or who may have forgotten the details, Covenant was one of several churches in our Presbytery, then known as **Mecklenburg Presbytery**, that funded and supported a water canal project in Haiti. Over a five-year period, a number of youths and adults, some still active members here, went to Haiti to work on this project."

The IAF has awarded FIDEB a grant for a small-scale local development fund that contributes up to \$1,500 per project in the areas of economic production, agricultural transformation, marketing, and small-scale enterprise development. The local

community must raise twice the amount of its grant in counterpart financing. To view the article and photos, log onto www.covenantpresby.org/HeadlineNews_Haiti.htm ❖



GRANTEES' CORNER

GRANTEE'S REDESIGNED SITE

Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP) recently unveiled the Web site it will use to establish and maintain sustainable alliances with local governments in support of development initiatives by low-income communities. Information on training, technical assistance and conferences, as well as case study reports, can be viewed at www.desarrollolocal.org. ❖

REMITTANCES IN EL SALVADOR

Kathryn Smith Pyle, IAF representative for El Salvador, and IAF intern **Emily Fintel** traveled to El Salvador to attend a roundtable on remittances in that country, sponsored by the **Inter-American Development Bank**. To learn more about the Salvadoran government's initiatives regarding migrants and remittances, the IAF team also met with public officials, NGO leaders and academic researchers who have studied these issues. A former IAF fellow, **Katherine Eekhoff**, one of the principal authors on these subjects, participated in the round table and other meetings. IAF is working with Salvadoran community representatives in Washington to explore possible collaboration on remittances projects in El Salvador. ❖

CONFERENCE SERIES

Date: June 18-20 2002

Venue: Arequipa, Peru

Event: Decentralization, Local Economic Development and Citizen Participation Conference

The IAF will join the **municipality of Arequipa, Marco Región Sur** and the **Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Regional (CEDER)** in sponsoring an international conference at which academicians, practitioners, and government leaders will present workshops on significant directions of development at the local level. Conference participants will analyze models, share successful experiences, and examine proposals for economic development and local participation in a decentralized context. These are highly topical issues for Peru, which in the past year has taken affirmative steps toward decentralization, and the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The conference will draw participation from local and national public entities, the private business sector, civil society and community groups. The sponsors hope to encourage discussion on public policy and specific actions to improve, through participation, the quality of life of individuals in the diverse countries of the region. For more information and logistics of the conference, log onto www.iaf.gov or e-mail ceder@unas.edu.pe.

Please note the IAF-Harvard Business School conference on corporations and poverty reduction scheduled for March 21-22 in Buenos Aires, Argentina; has been postponed indefinitely. ❖

IAF IN PRINT

- ∞ ***Building Democracy from the Grassroots*** compiles presentations from the July 16 forum sponsored by the IAF and the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy of the Organization of American States, at which four panels discussed the transfer of public resources and functions from central bureaucracies to municipalities throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America. **Lester Salamon, Beryl Levinger, Ramón Daubón, Marcos Rodríguez, Neville Duncan** and other distinguished writers examine the role decentralization can play in consolidating democracy, promoting citizen participation and reducing poverty. The publication can be viewed at www.iaf.gov; for a printed copy in English or Spanish, e-mail publications@iaf.gov.
- ∞ Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School is distributing "From Policy Advocate to Policy Maker: NGOs in Recife" by **Kathryn Smith Pyle**, IAF representative for El Salvador. The article, which first appeared in the 1997 *Grassroots Development*, will be used as a case study in a course on poverty and poverty alleviation in developing countries. It can be viewed at www.iaf.gov.
- ∞ Earthscan, a British publisher, is including **Marion Richey Vance's** "Social Capital, Sustainability and Working Democracy: New Yardsticks for Grassroots Development" in *The Earthscan Reader in NGO Management*, an anthology edited by Alan Fowler of Manchester Metropolitan University, and Michael Edwards, director of the Ford Foundation's Governance and Civil Society Unit. The article first appeared in the 1996 *Grassroots Development*.
- ∞ The ID21 program (International Development in the 21st century) of the University of Sussex has placed on its online database "Remittances: Fueling Consumerism or Aiding Development?" a paper first presented by **Patrick Breslin**, director of external affairs, and **Carlo Dade**, representative for the Dominican Republic and Haiti, at an IAF-co-sponsored conference on remittances held last year at the World Bank. The ID21 program's Web site includes research drawn from more than 40 international organizations. To see the article, which was originally published in *Approaches to Increasing the Productive Value of Remittances*, log onto <http://www.id21.org/index.html>. ❖

GRANTEES IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

- ∞ A Nov. 30 *Houston Chronicle* feature highlighted the Mexican coffee cooperative **Unión de Ejidos La Selva, R.I. (La Selva)** and its pursuit of a niche in international market through opening cafes in Mexico, Europe and now Atlanta. La Selva used its IAF grant to expand its cultivation and distribution of organic coffee for UNCAFESURE, the Southern Frontier Coffee Producers' Union, S.C., as well as to consolidate marketing channels abroad.
- ∞ **Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario (ODECO)**, an NGO serving Central America's Garífunas, coastal residents descended from Africans and Carib Indians, was featured in a photo essay and article on Garífuna history and culture in the September *National Geographic*. Visit the *National Geographic* Web site for details. ❖

NEW FACES AT THE IAF	FAREWELLS
<p>The IAF welcomes to its advisory council Charles A. Gargano, chairman and commissioner of Empire State Development, chairman of the Olympic Regional Development Authority and vice chairman of the Port Authority of New York.</p> <p>He joins a distinguished roster: Francisco Aguirre-Baca, founder and publisher of <i>Diario las Américas</i>; Rita DiMartino, vice president of congressional relations for AT&T; John C. Duncan, senior executive with W.R. Grace & Co.; James R. Jones, co-chair of Manatt Jones Global Strategies and chair of the Greater Washington Board of Trade's International Business Council; Steve Knaebel, president and general manager of Cummins Diesel, S.A. de C.V., in Mexico; Douglas X. Patiño, vice chancellor emeritus of the California State University (CSU) System and president of the CSU Foundation; Susan Kaufman Purcell, vice president of the Council of the Americas/Americas Society; Deanna D. Rodríguez, vice president for corporate contributions of Entergy Services and vice president of Entergy Charitable Foundation; and Al Zapanta, president and CEO of the US - Mexico Chamber of Commerce. The advisory council met last October and will meet again on June 3 in conjunction with the board of directors.</p> <p>Travis Jacobs, paralegal specialist, graduated from Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., after studying economics and Latin American culture and history in Madrid, Spain.</p> <p>Karen Juckett, staff assistant for the general counsel, auditor and external affairs director, previously worked at the Washington Office on Latin America and the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, Canada. She has a B.A. in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.</p> <p>Tie Xu, a specialist in Oracle software and design, is the IAF's new information technology specialist. ❖</p>	<p>Joyce Chisley, who spent more than 10 years with the IAF, most recently as budget officer, is now with the Peace Corps.</p> <p>Margarita Guerra, who was with the IAF for 28 years, most recently as a paralegal specialist, is on detail to the United States Agency for International Development.</p> <p>Melodie Moore, IAF staff assistant for Argentina and Venezuela for more than three years, has joined the Aurora Consultancy Group.</p> <p>Hugo Us Álvarez, data verifier in Guatemala, resigned to accept a scholarship toward an M.A. in political science at a U.S. university. ❖</p> <p>INTERNSHIPS ACTIVATED</p> <p>The IAF has welcomed five interns to its Arlington offices:</p> <p>Emily Fintel, who focuses on Western Hemisphere relations and economic development at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, is researching remittances and developing recommendations for their incorporation in future IAF-funded projects.</p> <p>Katherine Hutter, an M.A. candidate in Latin American studies at Georgetown University, is working with the Evaluation and Dissemination team on fact sheets and other publications.</p> <p>Kellee James, a dual M.A. (international development) and M.B.A. candidate at American University, is researching partnerships with the private sector to promote grassroots development, and is compiling a reference guide of best practices drawn from the IAF and its corporate partners.</p> <p>Claudia Panto, also a dual M.A. and MBA candidate at American University, is developing a framework for assessing the impact of socially responsible corporate initiatives on grassroots development.</p> <p>Hazel Miranda, a senior at the University of California at Davis, is working with the Evaluation and Dissemination team on an English edition of the <i>Grassroots Development Framework</i>. ❖</p>

ETHICS AWARD FOR IAF

IAF received the Outstanding Ethics Program Award at the **Office of Government Ethics'** annual conference held December 3-6. OGE Director **Amy Comstock** said programs such as the IAF's "serve as an example of the high standards the public should expect from the executive branch ethics program." IAF's ethics officer is **Carolyn Karr**. ❖

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This publication is by and for people like you with an interest in grassroots development. Please send your comments, suggestions and stories to Heidi Smith at:

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