

**UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
AUGUST 9, 2006 · UN HEADQUARTERS**

Tribal Link was one of the coordinators of the program of activities of the 12th annual commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. The event was held in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The program was emceed by Roberto Mucaro Borrero (Taino), Chair of the NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. It commenced with a screening of the film "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations" by Rebecca Sommer. This screening was followed by a welcome and spiritual ceremony conducted by Barbara James Snyder (Washoe & Paiute Nations, North America). Johan Schölvinck, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA gave the introduction. Messages from Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN; José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairman of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues were presented.

The program continued with a panel discussion on "Indigenous Peoples: human rights, dignity and development with identity". Mr. Schölvinck made opening remarks and Sonia Smallacombe (Maramanindji-Australia) of the Secretariat of the PFI moderated the discussion. Panelists included Phrang Roy, Assistant-President on Special Assignment for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, International Fund for Agricultural Development; Wilton Littlechild (Cree Nation-Canada), Member of the PFI; Romy Tincopa, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Peru; Q'orianka Kilcher, Actress, who played the lead role of Pocahontas in the 2005 Hollywood film, The New World.

The program concluded with cultural performances by the Crimean Tatar Association (Ukraine) and Tama Waipara (Maori, New Zealand). There was also an indigenous art exhibit by Inty Muenala (Kichwa, Ecuador).

In addition, on August 12, the Decade Committee collaborated with the American Museum of Natural History to further celebrate the International Day with a number of programs. These featured special concert performances by Maori songwriter Tama Waipara and the contemporary indigenous fusion group, Matou, with Maori and Native American artists. Poetry readings and songs were also shared by local Native American community members and a film screening focusing on Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations system was also presented.

The International Day was designated by the General Assembly in 1994 to be observed each year on August 9 and is celebrated at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, as well as by indigenous peoples in their communities worldwide.

**"YUKON CIRCLES" · SCREENING AND DIALOGUE
DECEMBER 4, 2006 · NEW YORK CITY**

Yukon Circles is a 30-minute film documenting the treaty-based, award-winning work of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. The 2300-mile Yukon River flowing through Canada and Alaska is threatened by pollution from military installations, mining, manufacturing and settlement. This film documents the historic agreement by 64 tribes and First Nations to work together to protect the river.

The screening was followed by a dialogue with staff members of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, as well as a reception in honor of the project.

TRIBAL LINK FOUNDATION, INC.

109 West 28th Street • New York, NY 10001 • 212 564-3329 • Fax: 212 431-6847
Email: tribal.link@lycos.com • www.triballink.org

TRIBAL LINK FOUNDATION, INC., a 501(c)(3), is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in association with the Department of Public Information (DPI) at the United Nations. Contributions to Tribal Link are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2006

TRIBAL LINK FOUNDATION, INC.

**CHANGING REALITIES: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE NEXT DECADE
WEEKLY DPI/NGO BRIEFING**

APRIL 13, 2006

UN HEADQUARTERS

Tribal Link, as a member of the NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, helped coordinate this briefing. Several experts on indigenous issues spoke about the forthcoming 5th annual session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Speakers included German A. Ortega, Minister, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations; Marijke Velzeboer-Salcedo, Chief, Latin America and Caribbean Section, United Nations Fund for Women; Elsa Stamatopoulou, Chief, Secretariat, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and Kent Lebsack, Executive Director, American Indian Law Alliance. The briefing was well attended by over 70 representatives of NGOs, UN and Permanent Mission staff.

**UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
FIFTH SESSION, MAY 15 – 26, 2006
UN HEADQUARTERS**

PROJECT ACCESS — GLOBAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Tribal Link coordinated Project Access in collaboration with Land is Life with support from Aveda Inc. This project supports indigenous peoples' participation in international meetings and conferences where decisions are being made that affect their rights, cultures and livelihoods. Initially, the project is placing a special emphasis on funding indigenous representatives to attend the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This year, Project Access funded 18 indigenous representatives from different parts of the world to attend the Forum:

AFRICA:

Pacifique Mukumba (Mbuti), DRC
Daniel Salau Rogei (Maasai), Kenya
Mary Simat (Maasai), Kenya

THE CARIBBEAN:

Reginaldo Adolfo Fredericks (Lokona Arawak),
Venezuela
Naniki Reyes Ocasio (Taino), Puerto Rico

ASIA-PACIFIC:

Jennifer Awingan (Kalinga), The Philippines
Viktor Kaisiepo, West Papua
Kado Muir (Ngalia), Australia
Janes Nanulaitta (Alifuru), Maluku, Indonesia
Mina Susana Setra (Pompankg), Indonesia

SOUTH AMERICA:

Tomas Alarcon (Aymara), Peru
Ivan Ignacio (Aymara), Peru
Miriam Marcia Tanguila Aguinda (Kichwa),
Ecuador
Edwin Miro, Bolivia
Marcos Terena (Terena), Brazil
Tatiana Ujacow, Brazil
Laura Yawanawa (Mizteca-Zapoteca),
Brazil
Joaquim Tashka Yawanawa (Yawanawa),
Brazil

PROJECT ACCESS (CONTINUES)

Prior to the Permanent Forum, Project Access conducted a capacity building training program from May 10–12. Some of the world's most experienced indigenous rights experts gave participants practical knowledge and skills, with special emphasis given to understanding and participating effectively in the Permanent Forum. The trainers assisted participants with writing interventions and lobbying, organizing press conferences and media interviews, and arranging meetings with the NY Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN bodies.

Participants and trainers unanimously agreed that the trainings were very effective, and they were eager to work with Project Access to organize regional trainings and expand upon the Permanent Forum trainings.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: HONOURING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE · MAY 16

This annual welcoming reception and cultural event was sponsored by Tribal Link, the NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum. This event coincided with the opening of an exhibit of indigenous art organized by the Department of Public Information.

Hundreds of indigenous delegates, UN agency representatives and members of the NGO community were present for this event which opened with a presentation by Descendance Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Dance Theater from Australia. This presentation highlighted the welcoming ceremonies of the Aboriginal Peoples of the Torres Straight Islands via song and dance.

Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum gave welcoming remarks. Ms. Corpuz, from the Philippines, also shared a song from her own indigenous Igarot tradition. There were also presentations by the P. Town Boyz from Red Lake Nation (USA), Sami musicians from Norway, Rasmeay Sareaypheap Khmer Dance Troupe (Vietnam), Elvel Band from Kamchatka, Siberia (Russian Federation), and Robby Romero, Native Rock musician (USA). The evening concluded with Indigenous Andean Music performed by Mashikunas (South America).

The diverse cultural content of the program provided a unique opportunity for cultural and educational exchange. The social context of the program allowed for a level of networking among indigenous peoples, NGOs and UN agency representatives not afforded during the more formal plenary sessions.

Capacity building was facilitated by the distribution of the NGO Resource Guide for Indigenous Peoples, which provided a better understanding of NGO activity and resources in New York related to indigenous issues.

A DIALOGUE FOR THE FUTURE · MAY 23

A partnership with Aveda Inc., a dialogue between business leaders, UN officials, government representatives, foundations, NGOs and indigenous leaders from around the world. The participants discussed best practice models for business partnerships with indigenous communities, mindful that the rights to land and resources are the key to the survival of indigenous peoples. Dominique Conseil, President of Aveda, introduced the discussion. Dr. Richard Walley and Kado Muir from Australia, as well as Tashka Yawanawa from Brazil, presented their partnerships with Aveda. The discussion was moderated by Roberto Mucaro Borrero, (Taino) Chair of the Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, a fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and chief author and director of the UNDP's Human Development Reports from 1995-2004. This was the first time that a business presented its partnership programs at the Forum. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

INDIGENOUS VOICES · MAY 26

This annual event honored the indigenous delegates attending the Permanent Forum. Many indigenous delegates gave cultural performances and spoke about their issues of concern. The event was attended by a diverse group of people ranging from indigenous peoples, NGOs, UN staff, and civil society and was hosted by Thomas Rochon & Associates.

BACKGROUND ON THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

The Permanent Forum is the culmination of nearly a century of effort by native peoples, since they first approached the League of Nations in the early 20th century asking to be heard. The theme of this year's Forum was "The Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples: Re-Defining the MDGs". The Permanent Forum was established on 28 July 2000 by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights. The Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The Forum consists of 16 members; eight are nominated by indigenous organizations regionally and appointed by the President of ECOSOC, and the other eight are nominated by Governments. According to its mandate, the Permanent Forum provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations. The first meeting of the Permanent Forum was held in May 2002, and yearly meetings take place either in New York or Geneva. More information on the Permanent Forum is available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/.

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DOCUMENTATION TRAINING JULY 7-11, 2006 · VERSOIX, GENEVA

Organised by the International Documentary Network on Indigenous Issues (IDNII), Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), The Indigenous Peoples' Documentation, Information and Research Center (doCip), The Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International (HURIDOCs) and Tribal Link Foundation with the support of the Swiss Development Agency, the Canton of Geneva, the Ford Foundation and Rights and Democracy

This is the first time this training program was conducted in Russian. Nine Russian-speaking indigenous representatives were able to take advantage of this opportunity. They were selected by the Foundation for Research and Support of the Indigenous Peoples of Crimea and RAIPON, an organization which unites 200,000 indigenous peoples from more than 30 ethnic groups who live in the North, Siberia, and Far East, covering more than one-half of the entire territory of the Russian Federation. They all represented their local organizations: Krasnoyarsk Committee on Nationalities and Religious Issues; Center for Support of the North (CISIPN); Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of Republic of Sakha; Foundation for Research and Support of the Indigenous Peoples of Crimea; Shor People Novo Kuzietsa; Khakas People Cultural Center; and RAIPON.

An effective documentation system will help an organization reach its advocacy goals by ensuring that the relevant facts are collected and data checked for quality and consistency.

The program had the following strategic objectives:

- ✧ To improve the capacity of the participating organizations to monitor and document human rights violations.
- ✧ To create a common language, shared by indigenous peoples' organizations in Russian and Ukraine, to describe and analyze violations, and to create a database to process the data effectively.
- ✧ To create a common documentation system which will pool together all data collected by network members, and organize it in a consistent way. Such a system will allow for a more comprehensive analysis of human rights problems affecting indigenous peoples, making the best use of available resources, and making it possible to produce a stronger argumentation for making the case in advocacy efforts.