

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

Local Development Conference

Six representatives of current and former IAF grantees in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and El Salvador were among the 530 participants from 88 countries at the International Conference on Local Development, held in Washington, D.C., June 16-18. The conference was organized by a team from the Inter-American Foundation, the World Bank and the German development bank, *KfW Entwicklungsbank*.

The conference consisted of presentations to the full audience followed by smaller group discussions. Three of the IAF-sponsored visitors led one of these break-out sessions: Maria das Gracias Marcal, or Dona Geralda, of Associação dos Catadores de Papel, Papelão e Material Reaproveitavel (ASMARE), Brazil; Robert Yaguachi of Corporación para el Desarrollo de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (CEDERENA), Ecuador; and José Francisco Coto of Fundación Salvadoreña para la Reconstrucción y el Desarrollo (REDES), El Salvador. They highlighted how NGOs and grassroots organizations, in partnership with local governments, identify problems, set priorities and decide on solutions that translate into intervention, and they analyzed relationships among actors. Also attending the conference were Sérgio Gregório Baierle of Centro de Assessoria e Estudos Urbanos (CIDADE), Brazil and Gerardo Bacalini, Federación de Asociaciones Centros Educativos para La Producción Total (FACEPT), Argentina as well as IAF staff.

Cido Gonçalves and Cristina Bove, both associated with ASMARE, joined Dona Geralda and Baierle in addressing the Inter-American Dialogue, and a presentation for the Esquel Group featured Bacalini as well. Individual agendas included various embassy programs, the Pan-American Health Organization, the World Bank and the U.S. Congress.

Mayors' Conference

More than 500 mayors and city administrators from throughout the hemisphere participated in the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities held June 22-24 and organized by Miami-Dade County and Florida International University (FIU). IAF president David Valenzuela, Allan Rosenbaum from FIU's School of Public Administration and Community Service, Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami and Javier D. Souto, a state senator representing Miami-Dade County, addressed the audience. The agenda included IAF workshops on funding local government, economic development and job creation, transparency in budget management, health management, and disaster relief and mitigation. Facilitators included professionals from IAF grantees and partners DelNet program of the ILO International Training Center in Italy; Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH) in Uruguay; Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) in El Salvador; FACEPT in Argentina; CHF International; Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and Gestión Local in Paraguay. For more information log onto <http://training.itcilo.it/delnet/fiumiami2004/index.htm>.



Facilitators from IAF funded workshops at the conference.

Heidi Smith

Newsletter 10
June-August
Summer 2004

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Grantee News

Free Trade Zone Exporting Goods to North America

Cooperativa Maquiladora Mujeres de Nueva Vida, International (COMAMNUVI), an IAF-funded cooperative managed by women located in Nueva Vida, was recently recognized as Nicaragua's first worker-owned free trade zone, enabling the cooperative to boost earnings. COMAMNUVI ships T-shirts and camisoles to Maggie's Organic, a business based in Ypsilanti, Michigan. IAF's 2003 grant has funded legal, technical and administrative support along with the working capital that allowed the cooperative to increase production to more than 700 shirts a day. Since its first shipment to Ypsilanti over a year ago, COMAMNUVI has grossed more than \$100,000 for 21,000 pieces sold. Its members earn 75 percent more than standard textile factory pay. The grantee was featured in an April 14 article in *La Prensa*, a Nicaraguan daily, and in the *National Journal* on June 5. To purchase COMAMNUVI's garments, log onto <www.organicclothes.com>.

Transnational Support

Salvadoran grantee Fundación Promotora de Productores y Empresarios Salvadoreños (PROESA) used its recent donation from Manos de Esperanza, a Salvadoran group in California, for a water tank truck to complement the irrigation network developed with the grantee's IAF award. The truck will haul water to farm sites beyond the reach of the irrigation system. With its 2002 IAF grant, PROESA also aims to promote diversified agriculture by developing 20 demonstration plots and to launch an agri-business benefiting more than 100 families. For more information, log onto <www.manosdeesperanza.org>.

The IAF in Uruguay

After a six-year hiatus, the IAF has returned to Uruguay, which the U.S. Embassy in Montevideo celebrated with an invited audience. Speaking at the event, the Embassy's Oliver Griffith introduced IAF representative Gabriela Boyer as well as Francisco Ravecca, Nestor Silva and Fernando Castellanos representing, respectively, IAF's new Uruguayan grantees, Endeavor, Mundo Afro and Zonamerica. For more information log onto <www.montevideo.usembassy.gov>.

Participating in the Digital Age

After receiving computers, computer training and Internet access through IAF grantee Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor (RITS), 40 grassroots organizations in the Brazilian Northeast are applying their new skills to their organization's Web sites, thanks to a seminar RITS offered July 14-16, in Recife, as part of its project, *Ação Digital Nordeste* (Northeast Digital Action). Additionally, by accessing RITS's *Portal Cidadania* (Citizenship Portal) at <www.cidadania.org.br>, organizations can upload information on human rights, education, income-generation and other subjects to share with a wider audience. For more information see IAF's fact sheet at www.iaf.gov.

Rio Fashion Event

Fashion Rio, a massive fashion event in Rio de Janeiro, offered IAF grantees CRIOLA and Viva Rio, as well as COOSTURART and FUXICARTE, both sub-grantees of Centro Integrado de Estudos e Programas de Desenvolvimento (CIEDS), the opportunity to sell clothing, accessories and decorative crafts. Federação das Indústrias do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN), also an IAF grantee, was an organizer along with business representatives and fashion stylists. The event provided a launching pad for Viva Rio's "Faz Paz" ("Make Peace"), a label developed by designers using fashion to express themes of violence, poverty and peace. Participation in Fashion Rio represents a milestone in the grantees' successful promotion of income-generating opportunities for low-income women in Rio. *O Jornal do Brasil* and *O Dia* covered the event on July 7 and July 13 respectively.

Fellowships and Awards

IAF-funded scholarships are available to individuals interested in the year-long local development courses offered online by *DelNet*, the International Labor Organization's (ILO) training center. Of the 40 scholarships offered twice a year, 20 are earmarked for representatives of IAF grantee organizations. The application deadline was August 20 and is now closed. For more information, log onto <www.itcilo.it/delnet>.

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) enables activists, scholars and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change. The fellowship program is based at NED's International Forum for Democratic Studies, in Washington, D.C. For full information on the program, eligibility and application, log onto <www.ned.org>. The application deadline is November 1.

The Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) NGO Innovation Award recognizes pioneering NGOs working to advance social inclusion and strengthen grassroots organizations. Funded by the Social Inclusion Trust Fund, this prize supports small-scale initiatives targeting certain groups: indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and poor women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The fund seeks to strengthen organizations, raise awareness, support research and dissemination, and encourage involvement with the IDB's operations. See the IDB's Web site for more details. The deadline for nominations is August 23.

Upcoming Events

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

The IAF will sponsor a workshop on the exchange of knowledge, skills, ideas and technology between migrants and their communities of origin. Development opportunities and challenges influenced by "transnational communities" will be addressed by Katharine Andrade Eekhoff, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO); Sandra Nichols, California Institute for Rural Studies; Robert Smith, Barnard College; and IAF representative Jill Wheeler. The IAF will also exhibit Miguel Sayago's photos from *Making their Way*, a recent IAF publication, and host a reception. Log onto <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu> for more information.

Opening, National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C., September 19-27

IAF-sponsored representatives of former grantees and other indigenous groups from Latin American and the Caribbean will participate in the celebration inaugurating the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The six-day festival will include contemporary and traditional displays by some of these visitors along with more than 300 singers, dancers, and storytellers from 30 U.S. indigenous communities; Peruvian scissor dancers; artisans from Tarabuco, Jalq'a and Taquileños, Bolivia; indigenous Bannaba dancers from Panama; Suyá performers from Brazil; and Guatemalan marimba makers. Go to www.si.edu/nmai for more information.

The Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, Mexico City, Mexico, September 27-29

IAF grantee Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía (CEMEFI), in collaboration with the IDB, the government of Mexico, the IAF, *Alianza para la RSE* (ALIARSE) and the Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL), is organizing the Third Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility. Fifteen representatives of IAF grantees will attend and IAF president David Valenzuela will chair the final panel. Go to www.csramericas.org 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 grass-roots 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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Conferences

Weaving a New Society, Connecting the Local Village with the Global Village, Antigua, Guatemala, August 15-21

The IAF, CIVICUS and the United Nations Development Program co-sponsored a conference organized by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, an international NGO working to strengthen relationships strategic development relationships. Participants shared approaches to global challenges through thematic panels, site visits and a final action plan. Ramón Daubón of the IAF spoke on development in Latin America on the opening day. Representatives of IAF grantee organizations in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador spoke on social capital and sustainable economic growth. For more information, log onto <www.ica-international.org>.

Workshops and Meetings

IAF contractors Azucena Díaz García of Mexico, Roberto García Aviles of Nicaragua, and Rolando Gutierrez of El Salvador met with IAF representative Kaye Pyle in Guatemala City, June 28-30, to discuss regional cooperation and the ICA conference.

Guest Speakers

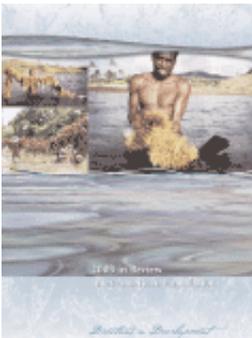
On June 1, the IAF hosted Marco Figueiredo, the executive director of the Gems of the Earth Telecenter project in Minas Gerais, who described his organization's efforts to encourage the U.S.-based Brazilian community to fund telecommunications centers linking the Brazilian diaspora with their relatives in rural Brazil. Log onto <www.gemasdaterra.org.br> for more information.

On June 4, former IAF fellow Thais Corra discussed her work in Brazil with community radio stations that broadcast programs for women. For further information, log onto <www.radiofalamulher.com>.

On June 25, Peter Pinchot of the Pinchot Institute described his collaboration with the Fundación Jatun Sacha, a network of rural communities on Ecuador's northern coastal plain whose sustainable forestry activities are assisted by the U.S. Peace Corps and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The Pinchot Institute is teaching community residents to use sawmills, kilns and carpentry tools to make high quality wood products and it plans to offer instruction in marketing and business management.

IN PRINT

IAF Publications



English and Spanish versions of *Grassroots Development* 2004 (vol. 25, no. 1) are expected for distribution by mid-August. The Portuguese journal is in production for distribution at events in Brazil. In June, *2003 en resumen* was distributed in Spanish; it can be found on the Web site along with the English and Portuguese versions.

Media Round-up

The May 28 *Las Ultimas Noticias*, a Chilean daily, posted Miguel Sayago's photos of IAF's projects and beneficiaries with a description of the IAF's work. Log onto <www.lasultimasnoticias.cl> for the full essay. For information on Sayago, see *IAFConnections*, spring 2004.

Jurema Werneck, a medical doctor and the executive director of IAF grantee Criola, a women's organization in Brazil, was quoted on health issues in the June 11 *Washington Post*.

IAF Staff in Print

"The Lifecycle of Corporation's Socially Responsible Initiative Program: Inti Raymi Goldmine," a case study by former IAF intern Kellee James, will be reprinted by the Brown Reference Group of London in a six-volume encyclopedia. To read the case study, log onto <www.iaf.gov/grants/downloads/intiraymi_eng.pdf.pdf>

In July, Amazon.com posted an anonymous reader's enthusiastic review of IAF representative Kevin Healy's *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001).

Ramón Daubón, IAF's vice-president for programs, published "Dialogue for Development," an article on international development assistance, in the *Kettering Review*, spring 2004.

2004 Awards Cycle

Approximately 1,900 proposals were received for awards cycle that closed June 30. Guidelines for the 2005 cycle will be posted in September.

Sharing News

* Send your news and photos to us at publications@iaf.gov

*This electronic newsletter is distributed to more than 2,000 readers. Would you like it sent to your inbox? Please go to www.iaf.gov to subscribe. Click on newsletter to find subscription form.

*E-mail us your comments on the newsletter at publications@iaf.gov

Staff Activities

On May 25, Marnie Schilken represented the IAF at the Esquel Group Foundation's monthly task force addressing family remittances as a development opportunity. She joined Geetha Rao of the Department of the Treasury, Jolyne Sanjak of the Agency for International Development, Carla Decker of the District Government Employees' Federal Credit Union, and Donald Terry of the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund.

On May 28-29, Kevin Healy spoke on cultural revitalization and grassroots development at the community museum workshop in Oaxaca, Mexico. He gave a one-day seminar on Andean indigenous movements at the Foreign Service Institute and spoke to his IAF colleagues on current projects in Bolivia.

Audra Jones represented the IAF at the IDB's conference on corporate social responsibility in the promotion of social development held in Tokyo, Japan, in July, with additional support from Japan's Ministry of Finance. In June, she traveled to Amsterdam to speak at the Second Conference on International Corporate Social Responsibility organized by the Center for International Corporate Responsibility and the Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University.

New Staff

Randall Blair, program staff assistant, studied Spanish and international affairs at the University of Virginia. He served in the U.S. Peace Corp in Santa Ana, El Salvador, and lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Courtney Brown, program staff assistant for Brazil, studied international relations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She spent a semester in Sao Paulo and interned at the Nature Conservancy.

Darío Elías, IAF's new translator, originally from Paraguay, came to the IAF from the press office of the U.S. Embassy in Asunción. He worked at Voice of America from 1989-96. He has taught journalism and worked as a free lance journalist for *ABC-Color*, the most widely circulated Paraguayan newspaper.

Juanita Roca, foundation representative for corporate programs, is originally from Colombia and received an IAF fellowship toward her master's in anthropology. Her previous experience includes work with Médecins sans Frontières and Conservation International.

Farewells

Richard Jones, general services specialist, has accepted a position with Government Accounting Office (GAO).

Oscar Ruiz, program staff assistant, will begin law school in Puerto Rico in September.

Alexis Smith, program staff assistant, was awarded a fellowship to pursue graduate studies at the University of Texas-Austin.

Executive Travel

In addition to the June Mayors conference mentioned previously, David Valenzuela participated in July in the UNDP forum on democracy in Latin American held in Washington, D.C., and spoke on local economic development at the international municipal forum in La Paz, Bolivia. In August, he spoke on the IAF's history at the Second Social Responsibility Conference in Santiago, Chile.

In June, Ramón Daubón traveled to Ottawa for a meeting of FOCAL, a branch of Canada's International Development Assistance Agency (CIDA); spoke at the Mayor's conference in Miami; addressed representatives of community foundations at a one-day conference sponsored by IAF grantee CEMEFI in Mexico; and commented on local development at the Universidad Antónima in La Paz, Bolivia. In August, he attended a RedEAmérica meeting in Cordoba, Argentina, then traveled to the Ethos conference at Guatemala's Landivar University and the ICA conference mentioned previously.

Walter Price, director of corporate programs, traveled to Jamaica in July to meet seven representatives from corporate foundations, including the Grace Kennedy Foundation, Multicare and the Insurance Company of the West Indies (WCWI), an environmental foundation in Jamaica.

Summer Interns

Fernando Astigueta, American University-School of International Service, worked on micro-credit projects in the southern cone.

Catherine Croft, Washington College of Law-American University, worked in the Office of the General Counsel.

Amy Firestone, College of William and Mary, researched training projects in Bolivia.

Borchien Lai, Northwestern University School of Law, worked with RedEAmérica and corporate programs.

Malahkia "Kia" Joyner, University of Chicago, worked with the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race.

Maria A. Lotito, University of Colorado, worked with the Office of External Affairs.

Vanessa Lynn Martin, Hood College, worked with the Western South America team.

Derek Newberry, George Washington University, worked with the Office of Evaluations.

IAF's Offices

Having difficulty locating staff at the IAF? On July 1 the IAF began remodeling its offices in Arlington, Virginia, for a cleaner, safer, working environment. We expect to be finished by the end of the summer and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.