

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

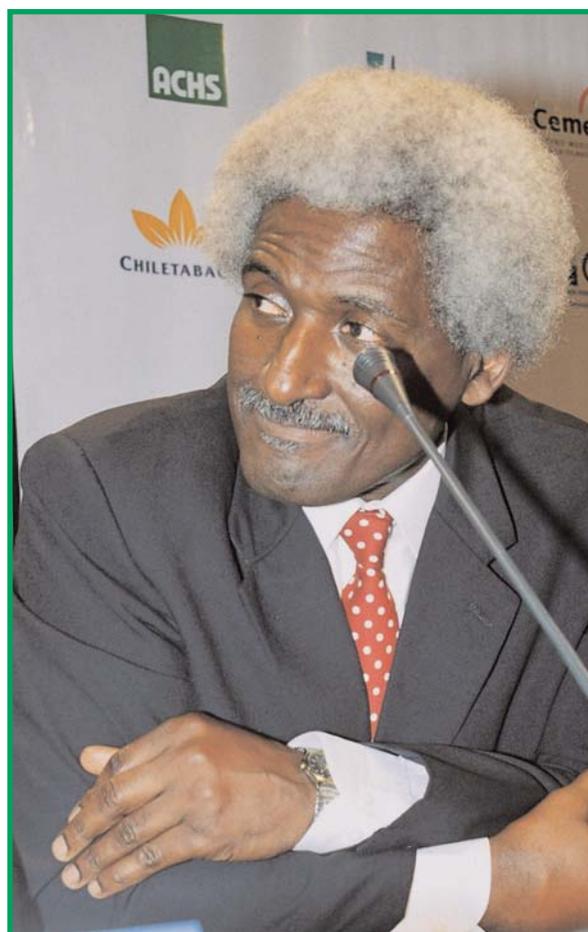
IAF President Hits the Road

IAF president Larry Palmer attended the Third Ministerial Meeting of RIAD (The High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation) held Oct. 26-28 in Recife and organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Brazilian government in preparation for the Summit of the Americas. For more information, visit www.presidencia.gov.br/riad/Static and www.ddpa.oas.org/main.htm.

While in Brazil, Palmer participated in orientation meetings with new grantees in Fortaleza and Recife. The new grantees, Associação de Moradores do Conjunto Palmeira (ASMOCONP) and Fundo Rotativo da Ação da Cidadania (CRED CIDADANIA), provide rural families credit and training on budgeting. ASMOCONP uses its own "currency" to connect youths with local business. "I was immediately impressed by their impact on community development efforts," Palmer said.

At the America's Conference on Social Responsibility held in Santiago Sept. 25-27, Palmer offered concrete examples of the IAF's work with businesses practicing corporate social responsibility. He described how corporations can work together to reduce poverty by joining RedEAmérica, which, since its founding in 2003, has grown to 53 corporations and corporate foundations representing 12 countries. For more information log onto www.csramericas.org and www.redeamerica.org.

Earlier, Palmer spent Aug. 28-Sept. 2 in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the Third Conference of African Descendant Legislators which brought Afro-Latino parliamentarians together with members of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, an African-descendent member of Canada's parliament and cabinet ministers from several Caribbean countries. Discussion focused on the elimination of discrimination, improved health and education, full inclusion, and fighting poverty in African descendent communities. The conference decided to establish a Latin American Black Parliament, made-up of elected officials throughout the hemisphere. For more information visit www.parlamentonegro.net.



The America's Conference

IAF President Larry Palmer in Santiago.

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IAF and the Summit

At the Summit of the Americas, held Nov. 4-5 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the hemisphere's presidents approved an action plan that included the creation of five micro-regions for economic development, an idea originating with the IAF. The proposal drew on 20 years of U.S. domestic experience with incentives to encourage business ownership, local investment and civic partnerships as ways to help people bring themselves out of poverty. The IAF committed up to \$500,000 in matching funds and will coordinate the implementation of the proposal with the first five governments to take advantage of it.

During the Summit, Laura Bush hosted a luncheon attended by three representatives of IAF's Argentine grantees. The event, organized by the U.S. Embassy, allowed the guests to describe their projects and share their experiences.

On the day before the presidents convened, representatives of IAF grantees and partners participated in a civil society roundtable planned by the Organization of American States and the Argentine foreign ministry. Miriam Gomez, Comunidad Caboverdiana de la Argentina; Rodney Jerico Da Silva, Centro de la Mujer Negra "Geledes" in Brazil; Epsy Campbell, Centro de Mujeres Afro Costarricenses and Carlos Quesada, Global Rights Partners for Justice, spoke about the IAF's African descendants' on-line forum. Argentines Alejandro Turyn of Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), Gerardo Bacalini of Federación de Asociaciones Centros Educativos para la Producción Total (FACEPT) and Federico Ricciardi of the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN), joined Angela Quintanilha Gomes of Brazil's CIDADE, Juan Carlos Hernández Correa of the Municipios Chilenos, Marcos Rodríguez of El Salvador's FUNDE and Dario López Desvars of Paraguay's CASA de la Juventud in representing the participants of the IAF-sponsored conference on local development held in El Salvador in July.

RedEAmérica Update

RedEAmérica welcomed new members Shell CAPSA of Argentina and the Asociación Atocongo in Peru. Shell CAPSA works with sustainable development projects. Asociación Atocongo has worked since 2003 with troubled young adults in Lima's southern zone and has participated in infrastructure projects that improve conditions for the area's families.

Hurricane Damage

The most damaging hurricane season in decades pummeled IAF grantees in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In early November, IAF vice presidents Linda Kolko and Patrick Breslin visited Guatemala and El Salvador to find ways the IAF might help.



Rxiin Tnamet volunteer retells her story.

They visited Asociación de Salud y Desarrollo Rxiin Tnamet, a community health project based in Santiago Atitlán, on Guatemala's famous Lake Atitlán. The organization's volunteer health promoters and midwives work in three communities in the area, including nearby Panabaj, which was largely wiped away by a horrific mudslide off the nearby volcano. Over 600 residents, including Rxiin Tnamet volunteers, lost their lives and survivors saw their houses and all their possessions disappear below the mud.

Devastation was widespread in communities served by two IAF-funded projects—Asociación Local Mangle para la Mitigación de Desastres y el Desarrollo en el Bajo Lempa – Bahía de Jiquilisco (Asociación Mangle) and the Asociación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo Campesino—around the Bay of Jiquilisco on El Salvador's Pacific coast as well, but without loss of life. Mangle's early warning system enabled local residents to evacuate in time. Rains and flooding from the Rio Lempa destroyed crops and severely damaged shrimp farms run by cooperatives in the area. IAF's initial response authorized affected grantees to reprogram project funds to deal with the emergency. Kolko and Breslin visited several sites to assess the damage and emphasized IAF's willingness to support its grantees in longer-term recovery efforts.

An IAF Up-date

The 2005 funding year concluded September 30. Proposals for 2006 may be submitted throughout the year and will be reviewed as they are received. All submissions must conform to the guidelines posted on the IAF Web site. Please check the site regularly for updates.

In Numbers

In 2005, the IAF used approximately 7 percent of its grant funds to support organizations serving persons with disabilities. Last year the figure was 5 percent.

Grantee News

Travel Grants

Former grantee Oficina de Investigaciones Sociales (OFIS) organized the Latin American Local Development Forum held Sept. 19-21 in Cuenca, Ecuador. Nearly 400 practitioners attended from all over Latin America, including representatives of Peruvian grantees Asociación para el Desarrollo Local (ASODEL) and Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular-Alternativa (ALTERNATIVA), from Cajamarca and Lima respectively. Wilbur Wright, senior IAF representative, also attended. Speakers included local development experts José Arocena of Uruguay and Alberto Enríquez of Guatemala. For more information, visit <www.fundacionofis.org.ec>.

Grantee Recognition

In its issue identifying Colombia's 109 most influential women, the weekly magazine *Semana* profiled Cecilia Duque, who worked for 35 years with artisan groups, including IAF grantee Museo de Artes y Tradiciones Populares, and Magdalena León, a sociologist, who received an IAF grant for her research on domestic workers.

Grantee Grupo de Mulheres Negras Mãe Andresa was one of 27 organizations awarded the 2005 World Bank Prize for Citizenship. The African descendent NGO promotes civic participation and gender equality in Brazil.

Grantee Instituto Palmares de Direitos Humanos (IPDH), a business incubator targeting entrepreneurial initiatives by African descendants in metropolitan Rio de Janeiro, received the Grupo Cultural Afro-Reggae's Orilaxé Prize 2005 in the category of best social project. Orilaxé comes from an African word meaning "the mind has the power to achieve."

On Oct. 8, the International Business Leaders Forum, funded by the Prince of Wales, awarded Mexican grantee Red Bioplaneta its Alcan Prize of \$1,000 for successful sustainability. Bioplaneta was the only candidate from Latin America among the 10 finalists.

Resources

The Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage is receiving applications for its cultural heritage fellowship awards. Applicants must send letters of interest (not exceeding three pages) by Jan. 15. The fellowships offer residence at the Smithsonian from six weeks to five months between Sept. 1, 2006, and July 31, 2007. For more information contact <culturalheritagefellows@si.edu> or visit <www.folklife.si.edu>.

Canada's Internacional Development Research Center (IDRC) and the Latin American Trade Network (LATN) are awarding \$3,000 to selected proposals to research income generating projects. For more information, e-mail info@latn.org.ar or visit <www.latn.org.ar>. The deadline is Jan. 31.



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

Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress, San Juan, March 15-18

IAF plans a panel on recycling projects in grassroots development using examples from its portfolio. For more information on the Congress, click on <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu>.

Social Policy and the Challenges of Equality and Citizenship, Olinda, Brazil, March 10-12

Organized by the Center for Latin American Social Policy University of Texas at Austin, this conference will review recent research on inequality and participation in Latin America.

Conferencia de las Americas "Santiago +5" Latin American Regional Conference against Racism, Brasilia, April 26-28

As a follow-up to the Durban conference of 2001, Latin American and Caribbean representatives of African descent will verify goals met and set a new agenda for inclusion and poverty alleviation. The IAF will fund 10 travel grants for participants from Latin America and the Caribbean. Visit www.santiagomascincio.cl for more information on the pre-conference held in Santiago, Aug. 10-12.

Twelfth Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities, Miami, June 5-8

The IAF will organize panels of representatives from current grantees. For more information on the conference sponsored by Florida International University and Miami-Dade County, contact Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta at the Institute for Public Management and Community Service: Tel 305.348-1271; fax 305.348-1273; lagierc@fiu.edu.

The CIVICUS World Assembly 2006, Glasgow, Scotland, June 21-25

The IAF will host a panel on youth projects. For more information, visit www.civicusassembly.org.

Workshops and Meetings

Andean Voices, African Roots, hosted on Oct. 27 by the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C., attracted an overflow audience of more than 100 individuals. Co-sponsored by the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America and the IAF, the event focused on the Afro-Andean struggle for visibility, social and economic development, and greater civic and political participation. Sharing experiences were Leonardo Reales, a Colombian studying at Louisiana State University; Jorge R. Reyna of Peru's Asociación Negra de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos; and Ecuadorian story teller Juan García of Centro de Formación de Lideres Martin Luther King. A photo exhibit documenting the IAF's work with these communities was displayed and now is available online at www.iaf.gov/photo_essay/photo_essay_en.asp.

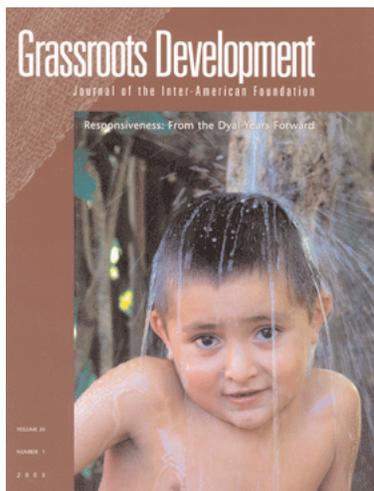
Documents from the IAF-sponsored Second Summit on Decentralization and Local Development include a declaration highlighting local development efforts throughout the hemisphere which appeared in the Bolivian daily *El Mundo* and on a government Web site in August. The Summit, held in San Salvador in July, drew more than 400 participants, including El Salvador's president Elías Antonio Saca, Bolivia's former president Carlos Mesa and Guatemala's vice-president Eduardo Stein. The Summit's organizers participated in the Conferencia Centroamericana por la Descentralización del Estado y el Desarrollo Local (CONFEDELCA), a Central American Regional meeting for heads of state and local development practitioners held in Panama City Oct 27-29. For the *El Mundo* article, log onto www.elmundo.com.bo/Secundarianew.asp?edicion=03/08/2005&Tipo=Comunidad&Cod=3581.

IAF's September workshops in Asunción and in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay, attracted more than 150 participants. Gabriela Boyer, IAF representative for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, organized the sessions on IAF's call for proposals in coordination with Pojajú, a network of Paraguayan NGOs. Darío Lopez Desvars, a representative of Casa de la Juventud-Paraguay, described his experiences as a current grantee. The Paraguayan daily *ABC* covered the events.

The Inter-American Forum of Afro-descendants, launched online in Costa Rica in August, attracted more than 150 participants by its conclusion in October. The IAF and Partners of the Americas' Center for Civil Society organized the forum in collaboration with the Centro de Mujeres Afrocostarricenses, Global Rights, the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America and the Inter-American Democracy Network. A summary of conclusions will soon be available. See www.partners.net/hemisphericforum.

IAF grantee CARECEN International was one of the organizers of the second binational conference of Salvadoran hometown associations in Europe and the U.S., held Sept. 2-4 in San Salvador. The approximately 150 participants included several mayors, as well as representatives of three municipalities involved in the IAF project (Acajutla, Santa Elena and Pasaquina) and from the communities' seven hometown associations in the U.S.

IAF publications



Grassroots Development for 2005 is available in pdf and html versions at www.iaf.gov. To join our mailing list and receive your free copy of our publications, send your complete name and mailing address to publications@iaf.gov.

Photos

“Water Services for Copan Communities,” the photo essay in *Grassroots Development* 2005, has been posted on the IAF Web site. The essay

shows the work of Honduran grantee Agua Para el Pueblo (APP) in 25 Maya Chortí communities of the Copán River basin. To access the essay, go to: www.iaf.gov/photo_essay/photo_essay_en.asp.

Studies

An IAF funded study, Local Governance and the Creation of Spaces for Civic Action, was presented to interested students and professors at La Universidad Católica in Lima, Peru on Aug. 12. In addition, researchers presented their work at the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) Latin American regional conference at the Ricardo Palma University in Lima the day before. For more information, click here: <http://furias.pucp.edu.pe/pucp/pubweb/jsp/puwntic.jsp?d=000000000058035>.

Grantees in the News

In July, National Public Radio highlighted two IAF grantees on the Mexican border: Pronatura Matamoros, an environmental NGO near Brownsville, TX, which works to protect birds around the Laguna Madre; and Maquiladora Dignidad y Justicia, a women’s cooperative on the Mexican border supported by the IAF in 2005. To hear “Mexico Acts to Protect Natural Beauty Near Border” from NPR’s *All things considered*, click here: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4761239>. For the second broadcast on *Latino USA*, click here www.latinousa.org/program/index.html and search for Maquiladora.

Useful Links

IAF Guatemalan grantee Museo Comunitario “Rabinal Achi” develops educational videos and CD-ROM materials on cultural heritage and eco-tourism in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz. Two of its documentaries, *El Sagrado Tejido* and *Corpus Cristi en Rabinal*, were featured in the Eighth Icaro Film Festival, a national competition. For clips, log onto www.festivalicaro.com.

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AT THE IAF

Guest Speakers

IAF intern Meredith Sanderson spoke on her research on IAF-funded recycling projects on July 27.

On Sept. 16, Kay Eekoff Andrade, a former IAF fellow, described her research for her M.A. thesis on communities of Salvadorans in Los Angeles.

On Sept. 29, IAF intern Gregory Minor described his research on Brazilian migration within Brazil and to the U.S. He also shared a documentary about his capoeira teacher’s work with a marginalized community in Rio de Janeiro.

Shelton Davis and Josefina Stubbs described their work at the World Bank with African descendants of Colombia’s Pacific coast on Oct. 31. Luis Gilberto Murillo, former governor of the department of Chocó region and currently working with Lutheran World Relief, also participated.

On Nov. 2 former IAF grantee Juan García of the Centro de Formación de Lideres Martin Luther King, an Afro-Ecuadorian folklore commission, spoke on his work and on the relationship between cultural preservation and economic and social development.

On Nov. 3, Efraín Jimenez, executive director of the Zacatecan Federation of Southern California and president of La Villita hometown association, and Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, an advisor to several migrant organizations including the Oaxacan Federation of Indigenous Communities and Organizations in California and the Indigenous Organizations Binational Front, spoke on Mexican hometown associations, including their role in Mexico’s 3-for-1 matching program for development.

On Nov. 15, Sergio Cobo, director of grantee Fomento Cultural y Educativo (Fomento), discussed his work with indigenous communities in Chiapas and Veracruz.

Staff Activities

In September, Ramon Daubon, vice-president for programs, addressed the Woodrow Wilson Center conference on local governance, the CIVICUS Advisory Committee, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, and IAF grantees in Cuernavaca and Managua. In October, Daubon joined Larry Palmer at the RIAD meeting in Recife.

Jocelyn Nieva, acting general counsel, attended the annual conference of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics held in New York Sept. 20 -22.

Program staff assistant Megan Moriarty represented the IAF at the Tenth Annual Meeting of Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF) Sept. 25-28 in Denver. GCYF serves as a point of contact for grantmakers seeking collegial and collaborative relationships with other funders concerned with children, youth, and families.

IAF representative for Ecuador Marnie Schilken joined Moriarty at the Inter-American Development Bank's Sept. 21 conference on supporting youth development and participation. Schilken also spoke on a panel at the Third National Conference on Regional Studies organized by IAF Chilean grantee Red Sinergi@Regional

New Staff

Cindy Soto, formerly of IAF's Office of Operations, is the executive assistant to IAF's president.

Jennifer (Jenny) Martínez, IAF representative for Venezuela, previously worked for eight years with grant programs involving Latin American nongovernmental and community-based organizations. She was born in Colombia and has lived in Haiti, Paraguay, Chile, Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

Gabriela Valencia, staff assistant in the Office of Operations, is from San Diego. She has a B.A. in education and Spanish and worked in education for seven years, most recently for the Higher Education Association in Washington, D.C.

Theresa Marie Logan, program staff assistant, recently graduated from Portland State University. She also studied in Antigua, Guatemala, and has worked as a community organizer in the U. S.

George Rowland, grants administrator, has an M.A. in International Studies and Latin America studies from George Washington University. He recently worked at ACIDI/VOCA, a non-profit international development organization, served as Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and in the 1990s worked in the IAF's fellowship office.

and its partners Superación de la Pobreza, and the Corporación Innovación y Ciudadanía.

Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia and Colombia, gave three lectures on indigenous social movements in Latin America at the Foreign Service Institute between August and November and lectured on Bolivia at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs in November.

Board of Directors

The IAF board of directors met at our Arlington Offices on Oct. 14. The evening before, the board honored Larry Palmer, IAF's new president, and departing board member Roger Noriega at a reception at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, D.C.

Thanks

The IAF would like to thank IAF grantees for their letters expressing solidarity with Hurricane Katrina victims.

Farewell

IAF representative Audra Jones left in November to become director of partnership development at the United Nations Foundation. During her seven years at the IAF, she was responsible, at different times, for Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Eastern Caribbean and also served as corporate liaison.

Office of Operations' staff assistant Hussein Mohammad left in August to take a position as a computer programmer in New York City.

Interns

Geoffrey Seiler, an undergraduate at George Washington University, is working with the Office of External Affairs.

Megan Flemming, an undergraduate at George Washington University, is working with the Office of Corporate Programs.

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

In Memoriam

Bill K. Perrin, the IAF's fourth president from 1990-93, passed away this past fall.