

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

Latin American Mayors hear IAF's Message

On June 21, President Larry Palmer opened the IAF's day of workshops at the XII Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities in Miami. This event, which brings some 500 mayors and local officials from all over Latin America, is organized annually by the Miami-Dade County government and Florida International University.

For the third year, the IAF supported the conference by organizing training workshops, which were followed by a luncheon and press conference. This year's workshops demonstrated how citizens may be change agents, how migration and transnationalism affect municipalities, ways to use technology for social communication and transparency, and also presented a conflict deliberation simulation using solid waste management as an example.

Ambassador John Maisto, the U.S. permanent representative to the Organization of American States (OAS), closed the day with a press conference and question and answer session describing Opportunity Zones for Latin America. President George W. Bush presented the Latin American Opportunity Zones initiative, proposed by the IAF, at the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina in November 2005.



President Larry Palmer speaks to participants.

Heidi Smith



Ambassador John Maisto and Armando Fana

The zones are self-defined development areas that encourage economic growth through tax incentives, training and technical assistance programs to community leaders, local governments and businesses. Armando Fana, Miami field office director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), described the zones at the IAF sponsored luncheon. To read the Miami Herald's thorough coverage of the conference June 19 and 22, visit <www.miami.com/mld/miami-herald>. For background conference information visit: <www.iaf.gov/news_events/special_events_sp.asp>.

Heidi Smith

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Grantee News

In the Field

Chamber of Commerce



On March 23, the American Chamber of Commerce in Santo Domingo, an IAF grantee, held an official ceremony to distribute US\$33,000 for successful local development projects. The funds were distributed by (left to right) the president of the Chamber, Kevin Manning, former U.S. ambassador Charles Manatt and IAF's data verifier Sandra Lafontaine. The IAF supported this project in 2001, to reach more than 2,000 residents of the poorest Dominican communities. Visit <www.amcham.org.do> for more information.

Grantee's Kudos

IAF grantee Asociación JILATA in Tacna, Peru was selected as a finalist from more than 2,500 proposals for the World Bank's Development Market Place. JILATA representative Nelby Zegarra traveled to Washington on May 8 to present the project, which brings ambulances and health education to children in the Peruvian highlands. The IAF provided assistance to JILATA in 2003 for training and technical assistance for farm families cultivating oregano. See the World Bank's Web site for other projects selected at <www.worldbank.org>.

Grantee's Travels

The IAF awarded a travel grant to Teresa Morales, a representative of Museos Comunitarios de Oaxaca (UMC) in Mexico, to conduct a workshop on community museums from July 1-8 in Pisac, outside Cuzco, Peru.

The IAF sponsored ten travel grants for African descendent and indigenous women to participate in the International Cross-Cultural Black Women's Studies Institute travel study tour to Panama, July 6-16. The trip was organized by Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. IAF editor Paula Durbin attended.

From July 14-16, the IAF, the Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative and the Foro de Mujeres de Nicaragua co-sponsored the Third Meeting of Afro-descendent Women Leaders in Nicaragua. African descendent women leaders from the region traveled to Nicaragua to redefine priorities and prepare for the Santiago +5 conference planned for later in the year. Linda Kolko, IAF's vice-president for operations, attended.

On April 6, IAF representative for Mexico Jill Wheeler joined Rodolfo Garcia Zamora, professor at the University of Zacatecas and coordinator of an IAF grant to Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo, and Efrain Jiménez, vice-president of the Zacatecan Federation of Southern California, a key project partner, on a panel at Tufts University's Fletcher School. The discussion on the promises and pitfalls of migrant investment in local development was part of a series on remittances and development in Latin America

organized by professor Katrina Burgess. Further information, including an audio version of the event, can be found at <<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/news/2006/04/remittance.shtml>>.

ALPIMED presented their IAF project at the Second World Social Forum on Migration, held in the municipality of Rivas Vaciamadrid, Madrid, Spain, June 22-24. IAF partner Enlaces America, an organization also supported by Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation and Connect U.S., sent a diverse group of migrant leaders to the event. For more information visit <www.fsmm2006.org>. The IAF supported Asociación Alianza para el Desarrollo de la Microempresa de El Salvador (ALPIMED) in 2004 to provide microcredit services to organizations in El Salvador and the U.S.

Where are they now?

Former IAF local liaison José Enrique Pinelo Navarro was named by Bolivia's government as Consul General to Chile, which is Bolivia's highest ranking diplomatic post.

Grantee Resources

Courses

Argentine consulting group and former IAF local liaison, Grupo de Análisis y Desarrollo Institucional y Social (GADIS) is offering online training courses for Latin American nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The courses are sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank and receive technical support from the Universidad Diego Portales de Chile. To access class information on finance, human resource administration, management and strategic planning, visit <www.identidadygestion.org>.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) offers an online local development course. Created by the ILO's International Training Centre's Delnet Program, the course aims to teach practitioners, including representatives from local governments, NGOs and businesses, an integrated economic development approach. For the list of candidates and details on applying, log onto <www.itcilo.it/delnet>. Classes begin on September 8.

Awards

In celebration of World Water Day 2006, the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) is offering a cash prize award to Latin American and Caribbean organizations for water-related achievements. Visit <www.cathalac.org> for more information.

The World Bank is offering small project funds for transparency initiatives in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. For more information e-mail: <dfernandez@worldbank.org>.

The Development Gateway, funded by the World Bank, is looking for projects that use information and communication technologies in development. For more information on the USD\$100,000 cash prize, visit <www.developmentgateway.org/award>.

World Cup Mania in the Streets of Berlin

Los Defensores



Team members representing Fundación Defensores del Chaco, an IAF grantee in Argentina, performed in Berlin's Street Soccer International Championship July 2-8. More than 24 teams from five continents participated in the tournament. The city of Berlin created a special plaza, Mariannenplatz, in the Kreuzberg neighborhood for the players. Street soccer games are supported by the German Government and FIFA, the worldwide federation of soccer. The event celebrated different cultures, music and of course, soccer.

The Association of Street Football World is a global organization looking for the "other dimension of the game" in order to improve people's lives through connecting communities with development ideas. Visit <www.streetfootballworld.org> for more information. The IAF funded the Defensores in 2005 to promote civic participation and offer legal rights education to 3,000 community residents in the municipality of Moreno, Buenos Aires. On June 15, *Clarín*, an Argentine daily, described the groups' soccer players' involvement and their current work. Visit <www.clarin.com/diario/2006/06/15/conexiones/t-01215902.htm> to read the article.

Blackness in the Formation of Dominican Identity

Do racial identity, inequality and poverty mix? On May 11, Dr. Silvio Torres-Saillant and (pictured left to right) Eulalia Altagracia Jiménez Abreu, Dr. Celsa Albert Batista and Cid Wilson described how they would respond at *African Beat*, *Caribbean Echoes*, an event and reception the IAF cosponsored with the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), Dominican-American National Roundtable (DANR), and Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America (IAC), held at NCLR in Washington, DC.

A lively discussion ensued on the Dominican Republic's rich cultural and ethnic diversity, its important African heritage and how Dominicans identify with their African roots in the U.S. Judith Morrison, executive director of the IAC, served as moderator and IAF's president Larry Palmer closed the session describing his experiences working in the U.S. embassy in the DR. Further information, bios on the panelists and a summary of the discussion may be found on the IAF Web site.



Heidi Smith

Grantees find International Market

In May, the World Bank's private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), began selling the products of two IAF grantees: artistic paper products made from natural fibers produced by POEMAR, a Brazilian non-profit organization in the state of Pará, and organic cereal bars made from amaranth and quinoa, two grains native to the Andes, by PRO RURAL, a Bolivian non-governmental rural association. PANGEA, an "educational retail shop and café," opened May 22 at 2121 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, in Washington DC, as part of a new initiative to showcase successful small businesses in developing countries. To view the products sold at the store visit <www.pangeamarket.com>.



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.

**Inter-American Foundation
901 N. Stuart Street
10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
phone: 703.306.4301
fax: 703.306.4365
e-mail: info@iaf.gov
web: www.iaf.gov**

Upcoming Conferences

“Santiago +5” Latin American Regional Conference against Racism, Brasilia, July 31-Aug. 4

Following up on the Durban conference of 2001, Latin American and Caribbean representatives of communities of African descent will review 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.santiagomascincoco.cl> for more information on the pre-conference held in Santiago, Chile, Aug. 10-12, 2005. The conference will be broadcast on Radio Bras in Brazil and may also be transmitted on the official conference Web site: <www.americascontraracismo.com.br>.

Eighth United Nations Ad Hoc Conference on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York, Aug. 10-25

In coordination with the Inter-American Institute of Disabilities, the IAF will sponsor the attendance of 15 disability activists from Latin America and the Caribbean to the last negotiation session for this Convention. In a radical departure from its normal procedures, the UN invited civil society organizations to contribute to all the Ad Hoc Committee’s sessions and help draft language that may govern the treatment of persons with disabilities under international law. The IAF previously sponsored participation during the seventh session.

The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) Indigenous Peoples and Ecotourism Certification Workshop, Quito, Ecuador, Sept. 7-9

The IAF will sponsor the participation of 10 grantees from indigenous organizations that work in ecotourism projects at the TIES workshop. Visit the International Ecotourism Society’s Web site for more information <www.ecotourism.org>.

Workshops and Meetings

The IAF sponsored four travel grants to leaders of African descent from Brazil, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica to participate at the OAS’s general assembly preparatory meeting in Washington, DC, May 2-3. They also participated in the general assembly held in the Dominican Republic, June 1-2.

The IAF and Global Rights co-sponsored a conference on Afro-Colombians in Washington DC, June 16-23. Civil society leaders from Colombia and interested U.S. parties discussed challenges for Afro-Colombian communities. Geiler Gustavo Romaña, president of the Association of Internally Displaced Afro-Colombians (AFRODES), Yolanda Garcia, the legal representative of the Association for the Defense of Black Culture and the Environment (ASO MANOS NEGRA), and Manuel Casseres, the secretary general of the General Collective of Attorneys for the Defense of Human Rights of Black Populations, discussed their efforts with IAF staff on June 20.

The IAF sponsored a panel at this year’s CIVICUS World Assembly, held in Glasgow, Scotland, June 21-25, on social inclusion for community development. Philip Walsh, IAF representative for Nicaragua, moderated a panel of representatives from three current IAF grantees: Olga Simal of the Centro de Formación Popular “Renaciendo Juntos” (CEPOREJUN) in Isla Margarita, Venezuela; Julia Quiñónez of the Maquiladora Dignidad y Justicia in Piedras Negras, México and Lucila Law of the Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Costa Atlántica “PANA PANA” in Bilwi, Nicaragua. These grantees work with populations that have traditionally been excluded or had very limited access to the development process—people suffering from HIV/AIDS, women working in the low-wage *maquilas* (factories) along the U.S.-Mexico border and indigenous groups living in the autonomous region of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, respectively. The panelists spoke about the challenges and strategies for engaging these populations as protagonists in the development process. For more information on the conference, visit <www.civicusassembly.org>.

The IAF organized panels of current or former grantees on Afro-Latino issues and transnational communities at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Conference, Los Angeles, July 8-11. *Afro-Latina Women Speak Up: A Discussion on Gender, Ethnicity and Community* addresses a broad array of social issues that impact Afro-Latinos in the U.S. and in Latin America. Panelists shared their experience with community engagement, grassroots development and the emergence of a stronger role for Afro-Latinas. *Communities across Borders: Latin American Immigrants and their Homelands* compare Mexican, Salvadoran, Dominican and Guatemalan experiences with community development at home and in the U.S. On July 7, the IAF co-sponsored a reception with hometown associations participating in the conference with IAF El Salvador grantee, CARECEN. The following day, the IAF co-sponsored a reception and film screening of *Cuando Los Espiritus Bailan Mambo* with the Global Afro-Latino and Caribbean Initiative, the Center for the Study of Race Ethnicity and Politics, and the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA).

Summer camp

IAF grantee Fundación Comunitaria Oaxaca is hosting a summer camp for international students to promote intercultural understanding and cooperation among youth, from July 3 to Aug. 5, in Sierra Norte de Oaxaca. Visit <www.fundacion-oaxaca.org/espanol/juventudes2006.asp> for more details.

IAF on the Web

The IAF Web site receives approximately 45,000 visitors each month with just over 1,000 people accessing the site each day. The average viewer stays for approximately 18 minutes at a time reviewing areas of awards by year, privacy and security statements, publications, and grant application procedures.

IAF publications



The IAF's 2005 *Year in Review* now appears on the Web in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The next grassroots development journal on transnationalism and migration issues has been posted in English.

Resources

Partners of the Americas (POA) and the Inter-American Democracy Network produced *Involving Citizens in Public Budgets*, ten case studies from the Dominican Republic, Peru, Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, Nicaragua,

Colombia, Paraguay and Ecuador on citizen dialogues related to budget allocations. The publication also includes a CD with the complete studies and data sets. POA also launched a full color html version of their newsletter. To subscribe visit <www.partners.net> or email: news@partners.net.

IAF's vice president for programs Ramon Daubon published "A Primer for Promoting Deliberative Democracy and the Dynamics of Development at the Grassroots," in the 2005 *Journal of Public Deliberation*: Vol. 1: No. 1, Article 4. To read the article visit: <<http://services.bepress.com/jpd/vol1/iss1/art4>>.

Useful Links

Spanish research organization Remesas.org published recent statistics on remittances from Europe to Latin America. Costs to send money may vary from three to 23 percent on 150 euros. Visit <www.remesas.org> for more information.

In May, the OAS launched an anti-discrimination Web site in partnership with POA. The OAS also hosted an online discussion for the general public's comments on the Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. Visit <www.oea.org/racismo> for more information.

The United Nations Development Programme launched Democratic Dialogues, a national program to mitigate conflict in different sectors of society. The IAF is an affiliate of the project. Visit <www.democraticdialoguenetwork.org> for more information.

Fellowships

In March, the IAF announced the restart of its doctoral fellowship program at the Latin American Studies Association, meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The award will cover round-trip international transportation and a \$2,000 monthly stipend for up to 12 months to study aspects of grassroots development. Interested students should keep reviewing the IAF Web site for more information as it becomes available.

In the Media

Former IAF president Deborah Szekely's career was highlighted on page 26 in the July/August edition of *More*, a women's magazine.

July 16, Argentina's main newspaper, *Clarín*, described FACEPT, a former IAF grantee, which teaches rural children by combining traditional boarding school preparation with home visits, allowing time to work on family farms. Originating in France, the alternative system now works in 21 schools in the province of Buenos Aires. Visit <www.clarin.com> to learn more.

And on June 15, another Argentine daily, *La Nación* described how El Ciebo, an IAF-supported recycling project in Buenos Aires, is selling items members pick from the street to designers who produce fashionable recycled decorative products and furniture.

IAF grantee's stories are now distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. In May, IAF grantee OPCION in Guatemala was highlighted on State's *Partnership for a Better Life* Web site. OPCION is an agricultural project for Mayan farmers supported by the IAF in 2004. "Water Services for Copan Communities," a story about IAF grantee Agua Para el Pueblo in Honduras, was also posted in April. Click here to read the stories: <<http://usinfo.state.gov>>.

In March, former IAF fellow Katharine Andrade-Eekhoff was quoted in "Money Earned in U.S. Pushes up Prices in El Salvador," a *Washington Post* article, about migration and remittances between the two countries. Katharine also presented her work with the United Nations Development Programme's 2006 *Human Development Report* on El Salvador to IAF staff on March 23.

February's edition of *Empresa y Gestión*, a business magazine in Peru, highlighted IAF grantee Centro para el Desarrollo Sostenible's eco-tourism operation. Beautiful photographs depicted activities for tourists who visit the Capachica peninsula in the province of Puno by Lake Titicaca. Visit <www.cedesos.org> for more details.

On January 31, Brazilian news agency SEBRAE published an article recognizing the social and cultural importance of *pousadas*, or simple guesthouses, that are constructed beside private homes in the northeast Brazilian city of Nova Olinda. The *pousadas* are just one aspect of the project being implemented by IAF grantee Fundação Casa Grande, which aims to preserve the memory of the unique archaeological and cultural importance of the area through tourism and community engagement. Visit <<http://asn.interjornal.com.br>> for more information.

The Web site for the Fundação Banco do Brasil highlighted IAF subgrantee Café com Floresta's production of sustainable coffee, which supports the biodiversity of the region. The IAF supported Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza (FBPN) in 2000 to fund these types of small-scale development projects. Visit <www.bb.com.br/appbb> for more information.

Guests @ the IAF

On March 6, representatives of the Centro de Derechos Humanos y Asesoría a Pueblos Indígenas (CEDHAPI), an indigenous women's group from the interior of Oaxaca, spoke to the IAF staff on the rights of indigenous women in Mexico. The group received a travel grant from the IAF to present their concerns to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

On March 15, Catalina Devandas of the World Bank's Disabilities Working Group and Maria Veronica Reina, president of the Center for International Rehabilitation, led a discussion on disabilities and development at the IAF. The guests discussed the UN's International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, which has allowed civil society and organizations representing disabled people to participate in its drafting. The IAF funded 12 participants to attend the UN meeting in January.

On April 4, Rommel Gonzalez of former IAF grantee Chac Lol described challenges of setting up a community-managed eco/ethno-tourism project. The IAF supported Chac Lol in 1999 to build and begin their operation. Chac Lol, based in Merida, Yucatán, operates the "Conjunto Ecoturístico Mun Ha" resort near the Uxmal ruins.

On April 19, IAF intern Sarah Hansen presented to staff results of evaluations conducted on IAF projects completed in 2004.

Former IAF president David Valenzuela visited with staff on May 8 and shared his experience working with Peruvian local development and crop diversification, a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) project he currently manages.

Martha Honey, the executive director of the Center for Eco-tourism and Sustainable Development, a joint project of the Institute for Policy Studies and Stanford University, describe the eco-tourism industry to the IAF on June 14.

New Staff

Maria Mercedes Torres, an IAF program staff assistant, is originally from Colombia. She previously worked as an information specialist at the Smithsonian and as a Spanish teacher near Washington DC. She has a BA in philosophy and literature and a MA in education from the Universidad del Rosario in Bogota.

Shaleah Edwards, an IAF program staff assistant, studied Spanish at Spelman College, in Atlanta, GA. She lived in Costa Rica and Spain, and before coming to the IAF, worked at ALS Association of Georgia, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Interns

Jonathan Amarilio, studying at University of Iowa College of Law with a focus in international law, is working with the general counsel's office.

Staff Activities

In April, Maria Teresa Acosta, a Colombia data verifier, visited the IAF to review how to measure intangible aspects of IAF projects. Also in April, representatives of the evaluation office Emilia Rodriguez-Stein and Rosemarie Moreken attended the Eastern Evaluation Research Society conference in New Jersey.

IAF representative Kevin Healy spoke at the University of Maryland, Georgetown University and St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia on Bolivian indigenous politics in April. The next month, he had a book signing at the IFC's PANGEA gift shop for *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grass-roots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001).

Vice-president for programs Ramon Daubon represented the IAF at the Inter-American Development Bank Sustainability Review 2005 on April 24, the Annual Democracy and Governance Partners Conference at USAID, June 12, and at the "Asset-based Approaches to Poverty Reduction in a Globalized Context," a forum at the Brookings Institution sponsored by the Ford Foundation on June 28.

IAF's general counsel, Jennifer Hodges and Wilbur Wright, IAF representative for Peru, attended the Grantmakers Without Borders' Sixth Annual Conference on Global Social Change Philanthropy, in San Mateo, California, June 8-10.

Marcy Kelly, deputy vice president for programs, attended the Border Philanthropy Partnership conference in Brownsville, Texas June 27-29. The IAF currently supports eight border projects for approximately US\$2 million dollars.

Linda Kolko traveled to the Dominican Republic to represent the IAF at the OAS' civil society meeting prior to the General Assembly June 1-5. The IAF supported Afro-Latino leaders proposing anti-discrimination legislation to the assembly.

Elizabeth Bryans, a graduate student at The American University's School of International Service, is working with the evaluation office on gender projects.

Denver Nicks, an undergraduate at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, is working with the program office.

Joanna Sanguinetti, studying for her BA in business management with a minor in Latin American Studies at George Mason University, is working with the audit office.

Zoe Vangelder, studying for her BA in Anthropology, Latin American Studies and Human Rights at the University of Chicago, is working with the program office.

Student volunteer forms for the 2006/07 academic school year are available upon request. For further information, e-mail info@iaf.gov.