

# The Peoples of the World Foundation



## *Education for and about Indigenous Peoples*

### **Annual Report 2012**

#### **The Fate of Indigenous Peoples in 2012**

In 2012 Burma (Myanmar) continued its course of democratic reform. By the end of the year the government had signed peace accords with all but one of the country's indigenous peoples (the Kachin). However the country's Rohingya people continued to face persecution and, in October, were the victims of unprecedented violence. Near by, on the Andaman Islands, the Jarawa people were seen being forced by local police to dance for tourists in return for food.

2012 saw new developments in the preservation of indigenous languages. Digital resources (such as a 'talking' dictionary for the Matukar Panau language of Papua New Guinea and the web site <http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com/> for the Anishinaabemowin language of the Anishinaabe people) began appearing in large volumes for the first time. Meanwhile the Pirahã people from the Brazilian Amazon were in the news again following a study by linguist Caleb Everett confirming their inability to count beyond the number three.

The Achuar people in the Peruvian Amazon celebrated a victory for indigenous rights when Talisman Energy ceased oil exploration in and withdrew from the region. ConocoPhillips followed suit a few weeks later. But indigenous Ecuadorian Amazonian peoples continued their battles against large oil companies. The Quichua people (along with Amnesty International) won “Best Documentary” at National Geographic’s *All Roads Film Project* for their documentary, *Children of the Jaguar*, about these battles.

Ahead of the eighteenth World Indigenous People’s Day Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma warned attendees at a meeting in Bangladesh that the country’s Jumma people “will [soon] be extinct.”

In Vietnam eight H’mong men were sentenced to two-and-a-half years of prison followed by a further two years of house arrest for “disturbing the social order and promoting separatism.” In reporting the case Hanoi stated how “humanitarian” and “benevolent” its justice system is.

In Mali, western Africa, members of indigenous groups such as the Tuareg became refugees following a military coup followed by a rebel insurgency. There was even a brief declaration of independence from the rest of Mali by some Tuareg. Later in the year eighty tribal leaders in the Philippines issued their own declaration of independence from the rest of that country. Meanwhile the Roma people continued to face persecution in many parts of Europe at the same time that genetic testing confirmed their original migration from India 1,500 years ago.

The Mayan long-count calendar cycled — but the world did not end — on December

21 and even though modern Mayan peoples did not expect the world to end, the governments of their countries made a good income from tourist dollars by hyping the event.

## **2012 Highlights**

2012 was a good year for The Peoples of the World Foundation. We continued to support indigenous peoples education under our *Educational Scholarships* program.

We continued to expand the reach, translate into other languages and add to the content of our Web portal.

Our assignments took us to Southeast Asia and South America.

Behind the scenes we updated our Web portal with a technology refresh. This update was transparent to our visitors yet it represents a major update to the technology that drives the site. It will also make it easier to incorporate future design changes.

The global, financial recession continued to have a bearing on our income and our donations were about 30% below those of 2011.

## **Assignments**

In 2012 we returned to Southeast Asia for the first time in seven years. This was a follow-up to our earlier assignments there to see how things had changed over the years. Our research was used to update the teachers’ notes that accompany the educational version of our documentary, *Peoples of the World: Southeast Asia*.

In 2012 we also returned to South America. Our work there will be published on our Web portal in 2013.

### **Educational Scholarships**

Helping to fulfill the first part of our mission — “education for indigenous peoples,” in 2012 we continued to fund our scholar from 2009, a young Kakchiquel woman from Guatemala, increasing her annual scholarship amount to \$1410. She has increased her work load to five courses per semester and is excelling in her college social work program.

Following the unexpected death in 2010 of our 2009 scholar, Aissata Traore, we made provision for the remainder of that scholarship to be transferred instead to Aicha Clémence Sidibe. We learned in 2012 that she graduated from École Supérieure des Hautes Etudes Technologiques et Commerciales (Senior School of Higher Technological and Commercial Education), Bamako, Mali, western Africa.

In 2012 we also re-opened our *Aissata Traore Memorial Scholarship* after the previous recipient, Fatimétou Walet Aly, was unable to use her 2011 scholarship because of geo-political instability in her country, Mali, western Africa.

### **Social Networking**

Throughout 2012 we continued to update our Facebook page with news and articles about and affecting indigenous people at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Peoples-of-the-World-Foundation/243657765700765>.

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### **Publications**

Helping to fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples” — we continued to publish our monthly article on our Web portal, *A Thousand Words*. Each month a photograph from our archives is featured along with the narrative relating the story behind the photograph — where it was taken and the story it tells.

*A Thousand Words* is updated at the beginning of each month on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/thousandwords.jsp>.

In 2012 we also published our fourth, annual Indigenous Peoples Calendar. The calendar is available for free download from our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/calendar.jsp>.

In 2012 we also published new material under our *Publish your Work* program. The article, *A Sociological Study of the Livelihoods of the Baigas in Baiga-Chak Belt of Dindori, India*, is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/hosted/baigas/>.

We also continued to translate material on our Web portal into other languages.

### **Educational Resources**

In 2012 we added a new resource to our Web portal: *Volunteer Travel Opportunities Abroad*. This resource lists, by country, programs of volunteer opportunities that specifically benefit indigenous peoples. We will regularly add new countries and

*Annual Report 2012*

volunteer programs to this resource. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/volunteering.jsp>.

Our Web portal continued to help fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples.” It received around 306,000 page views in 2012, down slightly from 2011.

Our materials continued to be used by thousands of NGOs, non-profit and media organizations, students and educators from institutions around the world.

**Governance**

In 2012 we regretfully accepted the resignation of David Udbjorg from our Board of Directors. We will miss him and we wish him luck in his future endeavors.

**Finances<sup>1</sup>**

Our funding in 2012 came entirely from donations made by private citizens. Donations in 2012 were down by about 30% compared to 2011. On behalf of our 2012 beneficiaries, we extend our grateful thanks to all our past and present donors.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2012 balance sheet.

Income	\$ 2167
Expenses	(\$ 1805)
Balance	\$ 362

Table 1. 2012 balance sheet.

<sup>1</sup> Financial data appearing in this report have not been audited by a Certified Public Accountant.

Figure 1 below shows the breakdown of 2012 expenses by category.

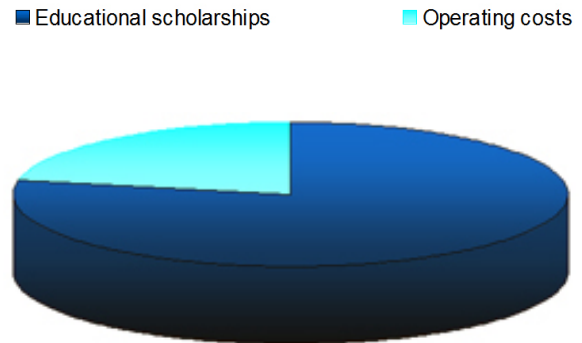


Figure 1. 2012 expenses by category.

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, our Directors, who personally funded 100% of our operating costs, our advisors and others who contributed their time and their belief in our mission to make 2012 a successful year.

**Plans for 2013**

In 2013 we will return to Mesoamerica and begin final production and post-production of our second feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: Mesoamerica* — we are currently targeting a 2014 release.

In 2013 we will also grow our Board of Directors.

In 2013 we will also re-design our Web portal.