

# The Peoples of the World Foundation

## *Education for and about Indigenous Peoples*

### Annual Report 2014

#### **The Fate of Indigenous Peoples**

The largest sporting event in the world — the World Cup football finals — took place in Brazil amid controversy that, among other things, focused attention on the plight and struggle of that country's indigenous people. In neighboring Colombia it emerged that in the first five months of the year alone over 4,000 indigenous people had been displaced due to the continued armed conflict in that country. In another of Brazil's neighbors, Peru, the largest mass grave ever uncovered there was found to contain the remains of about 800 indigenous people believed to be victims of that country's past armed conflict from the 1980s. In Guatemala 31 Ixil Maya were buried — victims of that country's own past armed conflict and believed to have been killed by government forces in 1982. Yet another Brazilian neighbor, however, Bolivia, showed signs that its indigenous women known locally as "cholas" are being less discriminated against than in former times.

North of Brazil, members of Honduran Garifuna took their case to defend the loss of their traditional land to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In northern Sweden it was iron ore mining that threatened the livelihood of the indigenous Sami people. On the other side of the world indigenous Cambodians experienced threats to their traditional forest homelands when they were illegally logged in preparation to be sold.

An ocean away in Africa it was reported that a quarter of the Congo's indigenous children die before reaching five years old. Back in Asia, Minority Rights Group International called on that continent's governments to do more to combat the growth of hate crimes directed against their indigenous peoples.

In September New York City was the main among many global stages for the largest ever march for climate preservation. The march included large contingents of the world's indigenous people on its frontlines. Yet a United Nations climate summit held three months later in Peru had little official indigenous delegation and concluded with little attention paid to the rights of indigenous peoples. Also in the United States there was a significant increase in the number of cities to officially rename "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous People's Day."

#### **Highlights**

In 2014 we began our second decade as a registered non-profit organization. We redesigned our Web portal home page to bring it up to date with recent design trends. We also continued to expand the reach and add to the content of our Web portal. We continued to support indigenous peoples education under our *Educational Scholarships* program.

Our assignments took us back to Central America where we completed our work with the Embera people in Panama.

While the global economy began showing some signs of recovery donations were down significantly compared to 2013.

### **Assignments**

In 2014 we returned to Central America where we undertook a photo-ethnographic project with the Tusipono Embera people in Panama.

### **Educational Scholarships**

Helping to fulfill the first part of our mission — “education for indigenous peoples,” in 2014 we announced the recipient of our *Aissata Traore Memorial Scholarship*. Mayra Ignacia Méndez Yojcom is a young Tz’utujil Maya girl from Guatemala. She received \$205 to help pay for school supplies, sports equipment and typing lessons. The scholarship allowed her to continue to perform volunteer work in her community.

Our second scholar, Martina, a young Kakchiquel Maya woman from Guatemala, continued using her scholarship funds from 2013 to study English.

### **Social Networking**

Throughout 2014 we continued to regularly update our Facebook page with news and articles about or affecting indigenous people at:

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

### **Publications**

Helping to fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples” — we published our monthly photo-essays. Each month a photograph is featured along with an essay relating its context to current events. They are linked from our Web portal home page at:

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

In 2014 we also published our sixth, annual *Indigenous Peoples Calendar*. The calendar is available for free download from our Web portal at:

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

In 2014 we also published new travel stories. The articles, *A Visit to the Tusipono Embera Community in Panama* and *The Coronation of La Reina de San Pedro La Laguna*, are available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/embera/>

and:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/coronation/>

In 2014 we also published a new photo-ethnographic article about the Ixil Maya. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Ixil>

In 2014 we also published previews from three of the four chapters of our upcoming feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: The Maya*. They are available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/maya/>

and in High Definition on our Vimeo site at:

<http://vimeo.com/user4279027>

## Resources

Our Web portal continued to help fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples.” It received 433,000 page views in 2014, up by 13% from 2013.

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

## Programs

In 2014 we accepted Jenna Winton as Assistant Editor in our *Internships* program. Ms. Winton is helping with the postproduction editing of our second feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: The Maya*.

We also added a new entry in our *Indigenous Art Exposé* program. *Meset Shiwiar* is a documentary being made by and about the Shiwiar people of Ecuador. Details are available on our Web portal at:

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

## Governance

In 2014 our Director of Research and Development, Teodora C. Hasegan, was awarded a Certificate in Indigenous Peoples’ Rights by the Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) and the Human Rights Centre of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace.

## Finances<sup>1</sup>

Our funding in 2014 came entirely from donations made by private citizens. Donations in 2014 were significantly lower than in 2013 and fell by 47%. On behalf of our 2014 beneficiaries, we extend our grateful thanks to all our past and present donors.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2014 balance sheet.

Income	\$ 1100
Expenses	(\$ 636)
Balance	\$ 464

Table 1. 2014 balance sheet.

Figure 1 below shows the breakdown of 2014 expenses by category.

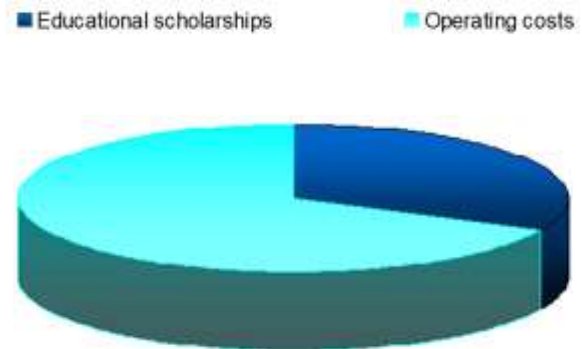


Figure 1. 2014 expenses by category.

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 in 2014.

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

## **Plans for 2015**

In 2015 we will release our second feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: The Maya*. We will submit it to selected film and documentary festivals.

We will also announce the intended subject of our third feature-length documentary.

We will publish our seventh, annual Indigenous Peoples Calendar.

We will formally implement a strategy for the future of our Web portal. Our “tic-tac-toe” strategy covers the three most important aspects of our Web portal. “Tic” represents the behind-the-scenes work necessary to keep our portal up to date with information technology developments in order to “future-proof” it. “Tac” represents the content of our portal. In order to be useful content must be rich, relevant, organized and structured. “Toe” represents design — the interface to the content that our visitors see.

This “tic-tac-toe” strategy has evolved over the past few years and it is now time to formalize it. Every year we will work on our portal in all three areas to some extent. But each year will be planned in advance to focus primarily on just one of these areas. In 2015 our focus will be on “tic.” We will implement some major technology updates to our portal, most of which will be transparent to our visitors.